Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 277 | **MONDAY** NOVEMBER 26, 2012 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

POLL RESULTS

Do you plan to have turkey this Thanksgiving?

Yes	83
No	63
Undecided	10

Sunday, Nov. 25, 2012

INSIDE

NATION

Obama's re-election makes it official: Women can overrule men at the ballot box. ➤ PAGE 15

ASIA

The Philippines' military leaders must stand their ground in any dispute with China. ➤ PAGE 16

LIFE & STYLE

Larry Hagman of the hugely successful nighttime soap, "Dallas" dies. ➤ PAGE 19

PAROLE sought for out of status aliens

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

On the heels of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' Thanksgiving announcement that they will consider extending by up to two years, on a case-by-case basis, the parole of immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, a workers' group is also asking USCIS to grant parole to nonresidents who are now "out of status" because of poor economic conditions.

"These workers came here legally and they had lawful status when the federal government took over CNMI immigration in 2009. Why is there no immigration remedy granted to them, only because they don't have U.S. citizen

See PAROLE on Page 4

Giant Christmas tree lighting kicks off holidays

Choir members singing Christmas carols are dwarfed by a 30-foot Christmas tree at the parking lot of the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe during a lighting ceremony Friday night. Inset, 9-month-old Jayvin Reyes, left, has his picture taken by the Nativity crèche beside the Christmas tree.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Pernalynn Camacho, 11, tagged with her parents and her three siblings to see for themselves Friday night's ceremonial lighting of a towering Christmas tree in Susupe that her father, Corrections officer Felix Camacho, helped erect with other government workers and minimum security inmates. Like most children in the crowd, the 11-year-old Camacho couldn't

See GIANT on Page 4

OAG, OPA mend fences

» Joint investigative unit revived
» San Nicolas off to Florida for NAAG meeting

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Years of "strained relationship" between the Office of the Attorney General and the Office of the Public Auditor may have finally come to an end not only with the revival of the Attorney General's Investigative Unit but also as a result of renewed cooperation between the two offices initiated by the new attorney general, Joey Patrick San Nicolas.

Pai

Former AG Ed Buckingham, now a fugitive from justice, scrapped the AGIU, a joint effort between OAG and OPA.

On his first week in office, San Nicolas led OAG officials in a meeting Friday afternoon with Public Auditor Michael Pai and OPA legal counsels, including George Hasselback.

San Nicolas said he brought with him to the meeting other officers of the OAG. They included newly appointed deputy attorney general Viola Alepuyo, Civil Division chief Gil Birnbrich, Criminal Division chief Peter Prestley, AGIU chief Ed Cabrera, and victim advocate chief Dixie Inos.

San Nicolas

"Just letting them know that this is the leadership of the Attorney General's Office… and we're ready to work together on matters that affect both of our offices…. The Attorney General's Office is the

See OAG on Page 4

Son threatens to kill mother with machete. PAGE 2
Search for snakes starts today at AMP. PAGE 5

Local

Sablan pushes for reform in CNMI's education system

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D, wants the current structure of education in the Commonwealth reformed so it would be more effective and efficient for the needs of the islands.

The CNMI Public School System handles the preschool to 12th grade educational program on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, while the postsecondary program is administered by the Northern Marianas College, which offers bachelor and associate degree programs. Both systems have their own legislative bodies that govern separate policies: the Board of Education for PSS and the Board of Regents for NMC.

Based on the last few years of observation, Sablan believes it's about time to make some changes in the system to provide better quality education to Commonwealth students.

"We need to reform the structure of education in the CNMI so it becomes more efficient and more effective and that it will meet the needs of the Commonwealth. Make it a structure that would be pre-school all the way to the 16th [program]," she told *Saipan Tribune* last week.

At present, PSS handles only up to 12th grade or until senior year in high school. Sablan believes that with a unified system, a seamless transition to college will be achieved.

NMC earlier disclosed that many high school students fail its placement tests, resulting in many being placed under remedial programs at the college.

Sablan blames this on the "gap" being encountered by students under two separate educational systems. She believes the CNMI must adopt the restructured system in many states and countries like Singapore where preschool to 16th grade programs have been effective.

Sablan wants a board whose members are elected by people to handle the educational system. She said it can be the Board of Education or Board of Regents, so long as members are elected by voters. Her proposed one educational system will be an autonomous agency.

Making this happen is more daunting because it will require a constitutional amendment, Sablan said. But she believes that the CNMI has to start thinking about the idea and put in a legislative initiative for voters to ratify in the near future.

"Somebody has to instigate it…but I think that this is something that our community has to decide. Remember, this is not new and this is happening in other states and even in Singapore. So why can't we be like Singapore?" she said.

This unified system, she said, will give a vertical alignment of planning for students and a better way for tracking their success.

Flaws of current systems

Sablan said that there's a gap between PSS and NMC in its current setup. But she sees this gap as more of a challenge than a disadvantage. She said she's glad that the two boards already had their preliminary meeting early this year on how the two can work together for all students.

When asked if she is satisfied

See SABLAN on Page 4

Son threatens to kill mother with machete

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Authorities arrested last week a 40-year-old man for threatening to cut the throat of his own mother.

The suspect's mother called police on Nov. 19 at about 2:15pm to report a disturbance at their home in Koblerville. The mother told investigators that she was threatened by her son, Marcelo Romolor, with a machete.

The mother narrated that her son got mad at her when she failed to give him cigarettes. He threatened her with the machete when he couldn't find their portable television. Her son allegedly raised the machete and pointed it at her, saying, "You better take out my TV or I will cut your neck with this!" The mother feared for her safety and immediately left the house and called police at the KB Laundry.

Police officer Jesus Cepeda was immediately dispatched to the area and arrested Romolor on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and disturbing the peace. The suspect was transported to the Department of Corrections where he was booked and detained. His bail was set at $5,750. The Public Defender's Office was appointed to represent Romolor.

Preliminary hearing is on Nov. 29 at 9am.

Holiday Season 2012
Drunk Driving Prevention Campaign
December 12, 2012 - January 01, 2013
Seasons Greetings
From your pals on the squad.
DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER
SAIPAN
TINIAN
ROTA
BUZZED DRIVING IS DRUNK DRIVING AND FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS DRIVE DRUNK.
Tis the season to be jolly, not arrested... Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over.
For more information call:
SAIPAN 664-9001/2 • TINIAN 433-9222 • ROTA 532-9433
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Dela Cruz to call for rejection of CUC emergency extension

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial extended anew last week his executive order declaring a state of emergency for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., but Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan) said yesterday he will move to reject the EO as soon as a House session is called.

"The governor should have a very good and compelling reason for his action on extended CUC EO. I hope he is not trying to purchase another power plant behind closed door," Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune*.

Some pro-impeachment lawmakers have concerns that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial might try to sign sole-source contracts weeks before the incoming House majority plans to re-introduce a resolution impeaching him for allegations of corruption, neglect of duty, and felony.

Dela Cruz, for example, was particularly concerned that the governor would once again sign a major sole-source deal, like what he and former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham did with a 25-year, $190.8-million diesel power purchase agreement. This PPA is now the subject of a lawsuit.

Fitial, in his Nov. 19 executive order, extended for another 30 days the CUC emergency declaration.

This means the governor has direct control over CUC because there has not been a functioning board of directors. The extended EO also allows the governor to reprogram funds to meet the CUC emergency.

Fitial's EO also means continued suspension of CUC's procurement laws or rules to address the CUC emergency for at least another 30 days. Fitial has been extending his CUC EO since the initial one—signed on May 18—expired in June.

The governor also continues to suspend the authority of the Public Utilities Commission.

The governor-aligned House leadership, however, has not challenged any of the governor's EOs, including those on the Commonwealth Health Center and the NMI Retirement Fund.

Fitial once again said there remains a "financial" and "technical worker" crises at CUC.

He said CUC is owed over $9 million by the Public School System and CHC, and is owed millions more by residential customers.

"CUC is facing $2.6 million in accounts payable to vendors who have, in good faith, provided materials and services... There is conflict and potential conflict between CUC and government agencies over money owed and other issues. Such conflict drains resources especially if it results in the parties going to court," he said.

The governor also said CUC often only has days' worth of diesel fuel to power its system because it lacks the funds to buy oil from its sole, cash-only supplier. Fitial said CUC has no credit or other means to buy fuel other than the revenue it collects from its customers.

"A unified government approach is necessary to reconcile and resolve the fiscal crises of the government with the fiscal crises of CUC. This can only be achieved through an emergency declaration," Fitial said.

As for technical worker crisis at CUC, Fitial said the extended EO continues to suspend Public Law 16-17 so that CUC can continue to hire non-U.S. citizens to fill technical and professional staff positions.

There are not enough U.S. citizens or U.S. resident technical specialists at CUC to perform power generation work, particularly on the type of engines that CUC uses.

Thai Massage
Ayurvedic
GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE
Get three (3) certificates for the price of $50.00!
Call for more details
Open Daily from 11am to 11pm • Tel: 233-2249
2nd Floor, Winchell's Bldg,. Garapan

SCS Saipan Computer Services
IDEAL SIGNS
JOIN Saipan Computer Services and Ideal Signs
2012 Customer Appreciation Raffle
...
from 19 Nov - 29 Dec 2012
every $25 purchase gets you one (1) raffle ticket
to join in our RAFFLE DRAW on 31 Dec 2012.
...
The more tickets, the better your chances to win!
...
Our little way of saying ...
THANK YOU, CNMI!
Grand Prize:
HOME THEATER SHOWCASE
- 47" Full HD LED Tru-Motion TV
- Blu-Ray System
- 6 Wireless Surround Speakers
1st Prize:
NIKON D3100 Still/Video SLR Camera
2nd Prize:
The New APPLE iPad w/ Retina Display
3rd Prize:
ACER Aspire 10.1" Netbook Computer
4th Prize:
SONY Cybershot Digital Camera
5th Prize:
TOSHIBA 1-Terabyte Portable HDD
Other Prizes:
And LOTS of other exciting prizes!!!
*** Some conditions/restrictions may apply ***

New Ferrari model cars
You set the steering
Technical Partner
Scuderia Ferrari
With a cash purchase of 7 gallons or more of Shell V-Power fuel, get your Ferrari model car for only $0.99.
Or, with every Lucky 7 redemption, get a FREE Ferrari model car.
Plus, get Lucky 7 Double Points with Shell V-Power gas purchase.
Shell V-Power
Offer good while supplies last. See store for rules.

Adaza elected new president of Filipino umbrella group

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The incumbent secretary of the United Filipino Organization will serve as the group's president for 2013-2014 after defeating two other challengers in the election held at the Filcom Pavilion on Nov. 24.

Annamae Adaza, who was first elected as a UFO officer in 2005, received majority of the votes of the 47 representatives of some 20 member organizations that participated in the election.

Adaza's victory was a closely fought race, with the new president holding only a one-vote margin against her closest contender, Wilfredo "Boy" Ching, in the three-way race after the second round of voting.

The first casting of ballots saw Adaza with 26 votes, followed by Ching with 18 votes, and Bok Enano with 2 votes. In the second round, Adaza received 23 votes while Ching garnered 22. Two of the 47 ballots were declared invalid as they did not tally a vote for any of the candidates for president.

Another candidate, Apollo Madriaga, declined his nomination due to work reasons.

Adaza, who is a sales manager at Luen Fung Enterprises, said in an interview that it was her destiny to lead the network of Filipino groups in the CNMI.

"The vote of confidence is overwhelming. I know that there are responsibilities to accomplish and challenges to face once I begin my term but I'm surrounded by people who have expressed their support and assistance so I know everything will be okay. I am counting on their word because teamwork is important in UFO's success," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Adaza said her involvement with the umbrella organization began in early 2000 when her deceased husband, Ramon Awit, served as president. It was in 2005 when she was first elected officer. She declined her nomination last year but was later appointed after the elected secretary was unable to perform her duties.

Before accepting the nomination as president for next year, Adaza revealed how she prayed to God and asked for a sign that she said she received on Oct. 31. "It was meant to be."

Adaza praised outgoing president Bong Malasarte, whose leadership was instrumental in carrying on the programs and events that UFO has been known for as well as introducing new ones that are now anticipated by the Filipino and the rest of the island community.

"My goal is to maintain, if not surpass, what president Bong has done for the organization," she said, adding that it's always a possibility of introducing new programs with the help of all their officers and members.

"Our aim is to really serve our *kababayans*, especially at this point in time because the Philippine Consulate [General] has already closed down. We will coordinate with the Guam Consulate to bring mobile consular services to the CNMI. As president, I can only be effective if I have supporters and followers in the group. With the help of God, I will accomplish my new role to the best of my ability," said Adaza.

OAG

From Page 1

highest law enforcement agency but we work closely with them as far as criminal [case] referrals and also referrals for collections, civil [cases are concerned]," San Nicolas said in an interview at the lighting of a giant Christmas tree and Nativity in Susupe Friday night.

He said he and Alepuyo have been talking about the restoration of the AGIU for about a month now, and that he's glad to know that when he came in on Monday, AGIU was "reinstituted."

San Nicolas left Saipan yesterday for a four-day meeting of the National Association of Attorneys General in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Public trust

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), chairman of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, was relieved to know that the OAG and OPA are working together again.

"That's what we asked the new AG to do—to work with other law enforcement agencies so that all critical issues affecting our law enforcement entities will be addressed, so that public trust is restored and the integrity of the departments and their officers are protected," Cruz told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

San Nicolas himself said during a public hearing on his nomination that he will work to restore public trust and confidence in the OAG if confirmed.

Cruz, a former police office, said "wrongdoings" among law enforcement entities and other government entities must be "eradicated."

As of last night, OPA's Pai has yet to respond to media questions about Friday's meeting with OAG officials.

New beginnings

San Nicolas, the first attorney general from Tinian and expected to be the last appointed AG in CNMI history, acknowledged the "strained" relationship between OAG and OPA.

He said it's time to "bridge the gap" and "re-establish" joint working relationship between the two agencies.

"I just wanted to have an opportunity to tell Mr. Pai that the Attorney General's Office is ready to work with them. We do have issues, we have existing, ongoing issues and we both agree that those issues should be resolved and we're working toward that," San Nicolas added.

San Nicolas said he'd rather not disclose these priority issues, but that they include the recovery of millions of dollars in public funds.

In previous regular reports, OPA said OAG has been unable to recover, in a six-month period, a single cent out of $6.2 million in taxpayers' money that were misspent, overpaid to professional service contractors, or unpaid land leases dating as far back as 1995.

During Buckingham's tenure as AG starting in 2009, OAG and OPA sued and countersued each other for a host of issues.

Among them is OPA's criminal charges against Buckingham, who left the CNMI on Aug. 4 and a trail of controversies behind him, including signing a day before a sole-source $190.8-million diesel power purchase agreement for 25 years and "avoiding"—albeit unsuccessfully—the service of penal summons.

Buckingham's use of armed police and ports police officers to allegedly avoid the service of a penal summons and the $190.8-million PPA are among the issues covered in a soon-to-be revived resolution impeaching Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for allegations of corruption, neglect of duty, and felony.

San Nicolas said the Buckingham airport "incident" was not among those discussed on Friday, but he said this does not mean it won't be discussed by OPA and OAG in the future.

'First day on the job'

San Nicolas said his first official day as CNMI attorney general on Nov. 19 required him to go to the Saipan International Airport to show support to the Commonwealth Ports Authority and other government entities as they deal with a plane crash.

"I want to say our hearts go out to the family of the deceased and to the injured passengers and their families and everybody who was affected by this tragic incident," San Nicolas said.

San Nicolas used to be a staff attorney at CPA.

The governor appointed San Nicolas in October but the latter asked that he continue to be with CPA until his nomination is confirmed by the Senate. The Senate confirmed him on Nov. 16, followed immediately by the governor swearing him in.

Florida trip

Days after settling into his new job, San Nicolas left Saipan yesterday to attend the four-day National Association of Attorneys General meeting in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

The first two days will be an orientation for new AGs across the United States. The next two days will be for all AGs, newcomers and old timers alike.

San Nicolas said he will be back shortly after the NAAG meeting.

PAROLE

From Page 1

children?" United Workers Movement-NMI president Rabby Syed told *Saipan Tribune* in a phone call from New York yesterday.

The Fitial administration has grave concerns about USCIS' two-year parole extension, but there's no telling yet whether the governor would tangle with USCIS over this decision.

The immediate relatives of U.S. citizens whose expiring parole will be considered for a two-year extension are covered in Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan's (Ind-MP) H.R. 1466. Many of these nonresidents lost their jobs in recent years and months as the economy shrunk.

Syed said that long-term nonresidents without U.S. citizen children who lost their jobs because of the local economy's slowdown are at a disadvantage because they do not have the same parole protection.

"These aliens are also qualified to have CW [Commonwealth-only worker] permits but right now they can't find a job and are already out of status. On behalf of the United Workers Movement, I ask USCIS or DHS [Department of Homeland Security] to grant parole to all aliens who are out of status because of the economy," he said.

Syed, however, has yet to write a formal request letter to DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano as of yesterday.

But he said he will also be working with labor unions and other private entities and congressional offices on the U.S. mainland to "inform them of the situation in the CNMI."

"President Obama said that when he was re-elected that there will be immigration reform. We hope they will consider granting green card [or a] pathway to citizenship to long-term aliens in the CNMI. The CNMI is different because these alien workers entered the CNMI legally," he said.

Sablan said legislation in Congress has been developed over time that has a "place holder" specific to the CNMI, although there's no information yet on the specific proposal for the CNMI's foreign workers.

Press secretary Angel Demapan earlier said it is still unclear why USCIS would take action proceeded on the basis that a new law would come into effect, referring to the two-year parole extension consideration for those covered by Sablan's HR 1466.

"In this case, not only did 'tomorrow' not come, but there seems a low likelihood that a law proposing a large influx of individuals who would otherwise not be permitted to enter U.S. soil will be passed," he added.

GIANT

From Page 1

contain her amazement.

"It's nice, it has lots of colors. I feel the season is going fast," the William S. Reyes Elementary School fifth grader told *Saipan Tribune* moments after the switch was turned on to light up the Christmas tree and Nativity crèche.

The lighting of the 30-foot Christmas tree and the Nativity crèche at the parking lot of the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe a day after Thanksgiving marks the start of the holiday season for many in this predominantly Catholic community.

"It's nice to see the lighting up of this Christmas tree with your whole family, especially because you know you helped in making it, from the ground up," said Corrections officer Camacho, gazing at the Christmas displays in front of them, along with his wife Esterlita and their children ages 6 months to 11 years.

Christmas carols also filled the air, courtesy of the Zion Choir of Kristo Rai Parish, Vox Angelic of Mount Carmel Cathedral, and the United Filipino Organization.

Jashlie Reyes said she took her 9-month-old son Jayvin to the lighting ceremony, after seeing her son's father, Derik, on the *Saipan Tribune* front-page photo on Nov. 21 as the man on the roof of the Nativity crèche, helping place colored light bulbs around the Christmas tree.

"That's his dad. We're happy to be here, knowing he's one of those who helped build this," the mother said, moments after taking photos of her son in the lit up Nativity display itself.

Esther Fleming, vice chair of the First Lady's Vision Foundation, said they hope to "help spread the spirit of Christmas in the CNMI" by spearheading the annual Christmas tree and Nativity project. The project is also made possible by the Women's Affairs Office, the Office of the Governor, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Public Works, and other private and public sector donors.

"As we officially begin the holiday season, I hope that our people will see this place as a reminder of the joys and tidings of Christmas... The comfort of spending time with loved ones, the freedoms we enjoy and the joy we feel during this season are the greatest gifts of all. So as we begin this season of peace and joy, let's remember those who are less fortunate and those who are alone this holiday season," Fleming said in her remarks at the ceremony.

She said people should also remember those who can't be home for the holidays—"especially all our brave men and women serving abroad."

"We pray for each of them and their families," Fleming said, referring to military and reservists from the CNMI stationed across the globe.

Fleming and Remy Buniag, treasurer of the First Lady's Vision Foundation, turned on the switch at 6:45pm on Friday, lighting up the giant Christmas tree and Nativity. Fleming is the governor's special assistant for administration, while Buniag heads the Women's Affairs Office.

First lady Josie Fitial was not feeling well on Friday so she wasn't able to attend the lighting ceremony. But other government officials were present, including Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas, Corrections Commissioner Ray Mafnas, acting Public Works secretary Antonio A. Camacho, press secretary Angel Demapan, and Danny Buniag of the Office of the Governor's special projects office. Fr. Jesse Reyes led the blessing of the Christmas tree and Nativity scene.

Danny Buniag, from the governor's office, said the First Lady's Vision Foundation and the government have been able to dramatically cut the cost of putting up the Christmas tree and Nativity, compared to the time it was started by former lieutenant governor Tim Villagomez.

Buniag said the project's power bill and construction used to cost an estimated $10,000, but this has been reduced to some $5,000.

"We recycled the materials, we sought the help of minimum security inmates and other government personnel, and we would only be turning on the Christmas lights from 6pm to 10pm starting Nov. 23, and three days before and during Christmas, from 6pm to sunrise to save on power costs," Buniag said in an interview.

The First Lady's Vision Foundation invites the public to see the Christmas displays during the holidays.

SABLAN

From Page 2

with NMC's performance at present, Sablan replied: "Maybe I am not satisfied in terms of equity because they really missed out in providing educational programs for our students on Tinian and Rota…because I really feel for our students on the two islands who are also looking for opportunities."

Sablan also believes there's a need to look at what program offerings need to be offered that will meet the demand and needs of the community. Programs like finance and accounting, hospitality and tourism, and education and nursing must be given priority and expanded, she added.

"If tourism for example is our industry, what kind of tourism programs do we have to offer: is it culinary arts, is it about hospitality, or do we need to begin teaching Japanese language, for example?" she asked.

Search for snakes starts today at American Memorial Park

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Comprehensive but "strictly preemptive" searches for a potential snake population will be conducted around the American Memorial Park beginning tonight to help ensure that the Commonwealth remains snake-free.

The primary focus of the searches, which will be performed by up to 15 trained responders per night from the commercial seaport to Micro Beach Road until Nov. 30, is the invasive brown tree snake, which is largely blamed for the destruction of Guam's native wildlife, said Dr. Russell Benford.

Benford, supervisory wildlife biologist for the CNMI Division of Fish & Wildlife, said the searches are a collaborative effort of their office with the U.S. National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Geological Survey.

The project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife – Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program or WSFR, which provides numerous and enduring benefits to the people, wildlife, and fisheries resources of states and territories.

Benford said in an email response that the four agencies are working together to improve the region's ability to respond effectively to a snake incursion, a particular concern on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota where flights and ships from snake-infested areas arrive on a daily basis.

With the arrivals expected to increase in the future, Benford said that snake incursions and the general introduction of invasive species are among the biggest threats to the wildlife in the Northern Marianas.

"While CNMI already has a well-trained brown tree snake monitoring and response team, we are currently improving our response capacity to protect the Commonwealth from this imminent and growing threat," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Benford revealed that there have been two preemptive searches for incipient snake population on Saipan, which took place in 2007 and 2009 near the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport "where introduced snakes are likely to be found."

Both searches were performed due to the "high" number of snake sightings reported to them, with the two most recent credible encounters of the reptile occurring in 2008 in or near the American Memorial Park in Garapan.

None of the searches, however, detected any snakes, according to Benford.

"But this doesn't mean snakes aren't present on Saipan. Snakes could still be out there that we just haven't been able to find," he noted, adding that an additional search would be performed on Rota in the spring.

According to Benford, they respond aggressively to sighting reports, given that snakes are hard to see even in places where they are abundant, such as in Guam. A credible snake sighting in a place where snakes are not abundant like Saipan could mean many more are out there and are undetected.

He said keeping the islands snake-free is an enormous task that requires resources and effort, acknowledging the dedicated staff at the Brown Tree Snake Section and from USGS who monitor and respond to snake sightings.

"Incipient snake monitoring and response is one of many projects DFW participates in to protect our natural legacy and ensure that the islands our children inherit are as safe, rich, and beautiful as the islands our ancestors have left for us," said Benford.

He emphasized that diligence and constant attention to the problem will help address a potential snake incursion in the CNMI in the short term, while new methodologies and techniques could yield better solutions.

Benford also underlined the critical role of the public in keeping an eye out for snakes in the CNMI, saying that volunteers are welcome to join the five-day snake search.

To join the search or for more information, call 664-6000. For snake sightings anywhere in the islands, call the Brown Tree Snake Hotline at 28-SNAKE (76253).

Bank of Hawaii sponsors Angel Tree

Bank of Hawaii steps in as the first Angel Tree sponsor for the CNMI Salvation Army.

Wayne Gillespie, ministry leader for the faith-based organization, said the financial institution has agreed to host Angel Trees at both Saipan branches.

The Angel Tree program is part of Salvation Army's Toy Drive campaign, in which various establishments are invited to set up and decorate Christmas trees and ask their customers to donate toys for less fortunate community members.

This year's toy drive will benefit children at the Division of Youth Services' foster care program.

Gillespie is inviting other interested businesses and organizations to become Angel Tree sponsors.

Meanwhile, the Salvation Army's Christmas Kettle program began at their primary kettle site at Joeten Superstore last Friday.

The program, Gillespie said, involves "Kettle Ringers" soliciting spare change from holiday shoppers by greeting them Happy Holidays until Dec. 3 before switching to "Merry Christmas" salutations.

He added that the "Kettle Ringers" will also have boxes next to the red kettle for those who wish to donate non-perishable food items and toys.

Gillespie is inviting churches, schools, and other interested groups to conduct food and toy drives to help Salvation Army.

"The Salvation Army is always in need of food donations in order to supply our food assistance programs, and the food drives conducted during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays are important because they shore up dwindling supplies," he said.

For more information, call 483-0885. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

Still Serving You!

Dr. David Khorram comes from Guam to Saipan every 2 weeks and continues to work with Dr. Robertson to provide excellent optical, medical, surgical, and laser eye care to the people of the CNMI.

- Listed in "Guide to America's Top Ophthalmologists"
- The CNMI's only Ophthalmologist (Board Certified – Score: Top 1% nationally)
- Researcher, Diabetic Retinopathy Research Network
- Published articles in international medical journals

Open six days a week, Mon – Sat, 8 am – 5 pm.

We welcome Aetna, Self-pay, Staywell, Netcare, Calvo's, TakeCare, Medicaid, Medicare, Tricare, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and more!

Marianas Eye Institute
"Where Technology Meets Talent"

235-9090
Walk-in's welcome
Beach Road Garapan.

Spread the happiness of mobile rewards with Mobil Smiles!

Redeem your Smiles Points for a Samsung Galaxy Tab and other great items, or buy it at a special discounted price!

From now until 3 January 2013, collect and save $60 cumulative worth of fuel receipts to redeem for these amazing rewards:

	Smiles Points	Special Discounted Price
$10 Docomo Prepaid Wireless Card	310	$8.60
Samsung A157 Feature Phone	2,150	$59
Samsung Galaxy Y Smartphone	5,220	$149
Samsung Galaxy 7" Tablet	18,400	$459

Customer is required to bring the $60 cumulative fuel receipt(s), Smiles Points redemption receipt/fast button redemption receipt, official Mobil-Docomo redemption Letter to the Docomo Main Office at Gulao Rai in Middle Road for redemption of the Samsung A157 Feature Phone, Samsung Galaxy Y Smartphone or Samsung Galaxy 7" Tablet (selected Samsung products).
For non-Smiles Points redemption on selected Samsung products, payment will be settled with Docomo at the Docomo Main Office.
Redemption of selected Samsung products at the Docomo Main Office valid from November 16, 2012 until January 10, 2013.
Not valid with any other Docomo or Mobil offer. Fleet Card and non-fuel purchase are not eligible for this promotion.
Redemption letters and redemption receipts cannot be replaced if lost, stolen or unused. Redemption letters and redemption receipts may not be copied. Duplication will result in revocation.
See terms and conditions at participating Mobil stations or call the toll-free hotline for details.

docomo DOCOMO PACIFIC

Mobil
We're drivers too.

Call our toll-free hotline at 1-866-486-7751 Monday through Friday from 10am to 7pm for more details.

Stanley: Recognize common-law marriages in the CNMI

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) pre-filed on Friday a bill that would allow the official recognition of "informal" or "common-law" marriages in the CNMI.

"A lot of people approached me to introduce this bill. When an unmarried couple living together for a long time and with children together, and one of the them dies, the surviving partner could not have legal right to the deceased's assets, mostly to help the children. I know this bill would get strong reactions," Torres told *Saipan Tribune* last week.

Torres, one of the longest serving lawmakers in the CNMI, said the current Commonwealth Code needs to be amended to "clarify and legitimize informal or common-law marriages for the benefit of couples who forego the more formalized marriage ceremonies and still desire official recognition of their legal union."

He said informal or common-law marriages in the CNMI "are arguably recognized in the current Commonwealth Code, 8 CMC 1205" but said such provision "is outdated and has never been amended since it was incorporated into Commonwealth law directly from the Trust Territory Code: 39 TTC 55."

Torres

House Bill 17-323, or the CNMI Informal or Common-Law Marriage Act of 2012, will be formally introduced at the next House session.

It amends Title 8 Division 1 Chapter 2 Article 1: Marriage, to add new subsections on "proof of informal or common-law marriages between any CNMI resident and/or citizen" and "declaration and registration of informal/common-law marriages."

It says a "declaration" of informal/common-law marriage must be signed on a form prescribed by the CNMI Court of vital statistics and provided by the CNMI Superior Court Clerk of Court.

"An executed declaration or a certificate of informal/common-law marriage recorded as provided in this section is prima facie evidence of the marriage of the parties," HB 17-323 says.

It also says "a CNMI Superior Court Clerk of Court or designated clerk who violates this subchapter commits an offense," which is a "misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than $200 and not more than $500.

Torres is also the author of other controversial pieces of legislation, including the legalization of marijuana use and legalization of casino gaming on Saipan.

Thank You

Over this past month, many of you bravely join the movement to end Domestic Violence in our CNMI. Whether it was at the proclamation signing, Day of Unity, Walks Against Violence, Day of Prayer, village conversations and presentations, or at the street market booth, your presence sent a clear message that violence has NO place on our islands. You stood with us to "Choose Peace, Not Violence." And for that, we salute you!

Although Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) has ended, our efforts to end domestic violence must continue, as there is much left to do. Thank you for embracing October as an opportunity to reflect on the type of community we want and deserve. Ending the silence of domestic violence takes our collective voices. We hope you will continue to speak out with us and invite others to do so.

A very special thanks going out to all the women, men, and children, living with domestic violence, who shared their stories with us and the community throughout the month. Your remarkable courage has inspired so many!

Special thanks goes out to all of the outstanding providers and responders who work tirelessly to serve victims and their families.

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence (NMCADSV) and the Family Violence Task Force (FVTF) would also like to thank all the amazing volunteers, donors, and partners below for their tremendous support during DVAM.

13th Tinian Municipal Council
3K Enterprises
Adult Probation Office
Alana`ia Polynesian Entertainment
Ana Marie Cruz San Nicolas
Church 360
Coca Cola Company
Commonwealth Port Authority (CPA) – Staff Retirees
Congressman Edmund S. Villagomez
Congressman George N. Camacho
Congressman Trenton Conner
Department of Commerce
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs (DCCA)
Department of Public Lands (DPL)
Department of Public Safety (DPS)
Division of Parks & Rec.
Division of Youth Services
Dolphin Wholesale
Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr. & Sr. High School
Friends of Xavier-MP (FOX-MP)
Grace Christian Academy
Grace Christian Assembly
GTC Elementary School
Guma Esperansa Shelter staff & clients
Guma' Hustisia/Iimwaal Awewe
Han Nam Super Market
Hon. Judge Joseph N. Camacho
Hon. Judge Kenneth L. Govendo
Hon. Judge Perry B. Inos
Huang Shun Corporation (U-SAVE Market)
I Mart
Island Store
JC Cafe'
Jesus is Lord Church
Joeten Shopping Center – Susupe
Joeten-Kiyu Public Library
Kagman High School
KKMP
Koblerville Youth Center
KZMI
Mr. Bob Coldeen
Mr. Bobbie Winkfield
Mr. Coloma B. Castro
Mr. Daniel Huh
Mr. Gary Sword
Mr. Jimmy Sablan
Mr. Lino Olopai
Mr. Patrick George
Mrs. Escolastica Cabrera
Mrs. Rose Sylvia Cruz-San Nicolas
Mrs. Shirley Camacho Ogumoro
Ms. Cinta Kaipat
Ms. Eleanor T. Cabrera
Ms. Elena Sutton
Ms. Lillian Cepeda
Ms. Lolly Villagomez
Ms. Mariana B. Tenorio
Ms. Marthonia Borja
Ms. Rose Chen
Ms. Rose Kaipat
Ms. Rosemond Santos
Ms. Semona Igama
Ms. Sharon San Nicolas
Ms. Shelli Neal
Ms. Tanya King
NMC: Rehabilitation & Human Services
Office of the Mayor (Rota)
Pacific Flowers Dancers
Pastor Connie Chandler
Pastor Lito Rey
Pastor Ray S. Kinsella
Power 99
Public School System
Pwipwi Chok
Resident Director Manuel Atalig (DPS Rota)
Rota Buck Battalion, JROTC
Rota Community
Rota Council Office
Rota Elementary School
Rota Family Violence Task Force
Saipan Community
Saipan Music & Dance Group
San Antonio Church
San Antonio Elementary School
San Isidro Church, Rota
San Jose Church, Tinian
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz
Senator Henry H. San Nicolas
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider
Sergeant Major Herman Atalig
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Tammy Palacios
Tanapag Elementary School
Tessa Diaz
Tinian Community
Tinian Dynasty & Staff
Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino
Tinian Health Center
Tinian High School Honor Society
Tinian Ice & Water Company
Tinian Jr. & Sr. High School
Tinian Mayor's Office
U.S. Congressman Gregorio Kilili Sablan
Umang Glee Club
Victorious Christian Church

This project is 100% supported by Grant #G-1101MPSDVC awarded by the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this release are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Scheduled power outage on Saturday

There will be a scheduled power outage on Saturday, Dec. 1, 2012, from 8:30am to 12:30pm, according to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

The outage will allow CUC line crews to perform system maintenance and replace three rotted power poles in the upper Dandan Homestead area.

Water services may be affected during the power interruption; however, all services should be restored after power is re-energized.

Areas affected are from the former San Vicente Round House south to Jin Store at the intersection of Dandan Road and Flame Tree Road and back toward the Hawaiian Rock Quarry and Obyan areas and the CUC-Obyan Water Wells.

Travelers are asked to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas. ***(CUC)***

Lawyer in federalization lawsuit admits 'inadvertent' mistake

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The lawyer for Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano in the federalization lawsuit admits committing an inadvertent mistake but denied allegations that he misled the defense lawyer in the case.

» Denies misleading Woodruff

This was what Theodore W. Atkinson, senior litigation counsel for the U.S. Department of Justice, told the court in a four-page notice concerning the dismissal order issued by the court.

Last week, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Justice Ramona V. Manglona dismissed with prejudice the complaint that challenged the implementation of the federalization law, or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, because the plaintiffs, represented by lawyer Steven Woodruff, failed to reply to the motion to dismiss the case filed by Atkinson's clients.

Soon after the order was issued, Woodruff told the media that he will file a motion to correct, clarify, or reconsider the order, saying he was misled by Atkinson on the date the plaintiff is supposed to turn in a response. Woodruff said that he was made to believe that the submission of response was Nov. 29, 2012, and not Nov. 8 as what the due date really is.

Atkinson, in his latest court filing, said he did not mislead Woodruff or the court.

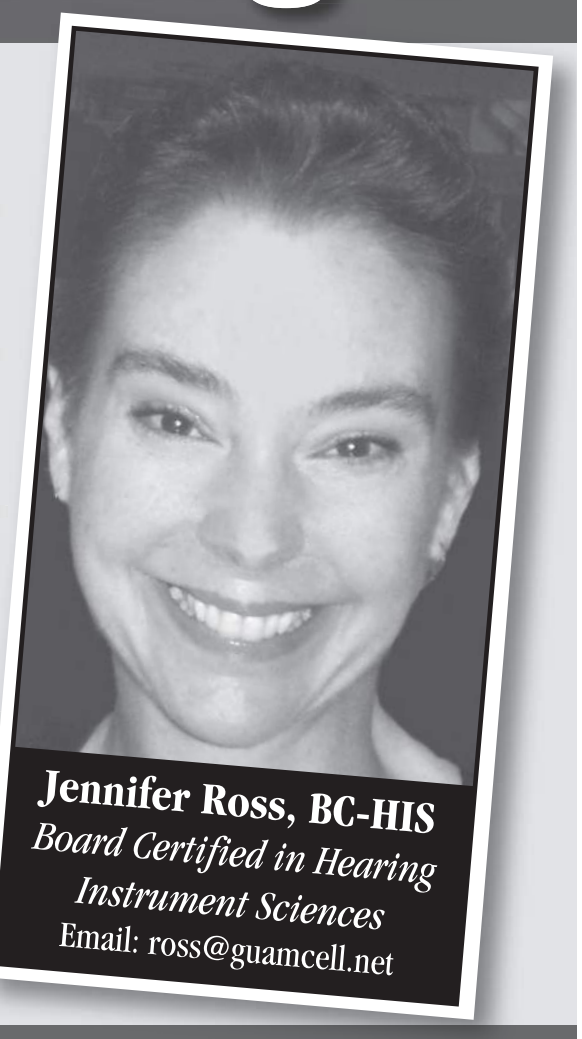
"The discrepancy between the date of the hearing on the notice of motion and the date for responses in the ECF/CM notice was—at most—an inadvertent mistake. Mr. Woodruff has never made any attempt to contact the undersigned counsel about this matter. This issue could have been resolved by a simple exchange of emails from one professional attorney to another. Instead, undersigned counsel only learned of his inadvertent and easily-corrected error after Mr. Woodruff falsely accused undersigned of professional misconduct in the press," Atkinson states.

Atkinson told the court that the notice he filed is to notify the court of the discrepancy and informed that his clients will not oppose a motion by the plaintiffs for the limited purpose of allowing Woodruff to file an opposition to the defendants' motion to dismiss on or before Nov. 29, 2012.

"Accordingly, if Mr. Woodruff makes a motion to reopen for the limited purpose of allowing him to respond to the motion to dismiss on Nov. 29, defendants would not object. Similarly, the defendants would not object to this court reopening the matter sua sponte and setting Nov. 29 for the date of which plaintiffs must respond to defendants' motion to dismiss," added Atkinson.

Santa Rita Memorial Service
San Jose, Saipan - next to Mobil

Your most affordable funeral service store
Caskets $650.00 - $1,800.00
Hearse Service starting at $150.00
Lowering Device Service $150.00
Memorial Floral Package $250.00
Hearse rental • Funeral equipment rental • Supplies • Cemetery cross • Flowers
Open Monday to Saturday 10:00am – 5:00pm | For more information please call 285-5812

How's Your Hearing?
Specializing in:
- Hearing Evaluations
- Custom fitted hearing aids
- Digital and Programmable Technology
- Custom Communication Devices

Jennifer Ross, BC-HIS
Board Certified in Hearing Instrument Sciences
Email: ross@guamcell.net
- Friday, November 30th 8:30am - 5:00pm
- Saturday, December 1st 9:00am - 2:00pm
at Marianas Medical Center in Garapan
All interested patients should call Marianas Medical Clinic for scheduling
234-3925/7
Insurance accepted: AETNA and Medicaid
Ross Hearing Aids

CERTIFIED Used Cars
1 YEAR FREE SERVICE WITH USED CAR PURCHASE
DEALS OF THE WEEK

2007 Nissan Versa
STOCK # 7L360744
$9,995.00

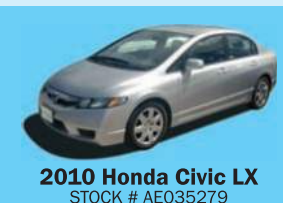
2008 Kia Sedona LX
STOCK # 8621070
$15,995.00

2011 Nissan Altima S
STOCK # BN402054
$19,995.00

2005 Ford Five Hundred SE
STOCK # 5C104810
$10,995.00*

SOLD
2005 Nissan Xterra S
STOCK # 9C509155
$16,995.00*

2004 Ford Crown Victoria
STOCK # 4X141028
$8,995.00*

SOLD
2004 Honda Accord LX
STOCK # 4A068311
$12,995.00*

2010 Honda Civic LX
STOCK # AE035279
$16,995.00*

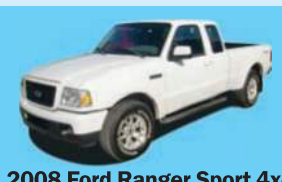
2010 Nissan Frontier SV
STOCK # AC416943
$24,995.00*

SOLD
2010 Kia Rio LX
STOCK # A6673680
$12,995.00*

2004 Honda Accord LX
STOCK # 4A07149
$12,995.00*

2008 Nissan Quest S
STOCK # 8N111101
$18,995.00*

Joseph (Jay) Cabrera
Sales Consultant
Visit or call 234-5562
Visit us on Facebook

2009 Nissan Altima S
STOCK # 9C188438
$18,995.00*

2008 Ford Ranger Sport 4x4
STOCK # 8PA43917
$21,995.00*
SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. – FRI. 8 AM – 6 PM
SAT. 8 AM - 12 NOON • TEL. 234-5562
Vehicle may not be exactly as shown • Some conditions apply • On approved credit • See dealer for details • While Supplies last.
* Vehicles Certified with 61 point inspection.
Joeten Motors POWERED BY YOU

INVITATION FOR BIDS
WATER TASK FORCE
IFB13-GOV- 022

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, through the CNMI Water Task Force, is soliciting sealed bids for the Leak Detection and Repairs for Garapan Tourist Center in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of the Treasury (T-Listed).

The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a US Treasury listed company. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior and the Economic Development Administration (EDA), US Department of Commerce. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA and EDA.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:

- Contractor shall identify, report, and repairs leaks in the water distribution system, to include but not limited to mainline leaks, residential meter leaks, fire hydrants, mainline valve leaks, and other appurtenant parts of the distribution system. Contractor shall also report and repair or replace inoperable fire hydrant and valves. Contractor shall identify the models, make and part number or identification of any existing meters, hydrants or valves, which were repaired.
- Installation of valves, air relief valves, blow-off valves, fire hydrants and fittings.
- Contractor will, for each identified leak, submit a repair schedule and cost estimate for the repair including restoration of the repair sites (cushioning, backfilling/compaction and asphalting). Pavement restoration, predominantly along the road traffic, shall be expeditiously restored initially using lean concrete as basecourse. Compaction test must be submitted prior to paving.
- Contractor shall identify, report, and resolve areas of potential backflow within the water distribution system. Contractor, upon notification from WTF as forwarded from CUC, shall investigate complaints of low water pressure in the distribution system. This may indicate a substantial leak has occurred.
- Contractor will trace unrecorded service lines to their point of origin.
- Contractor shall identify, report, cut and cap abandoned lines and laterals serving vacant buildings or other facilities.
- Contractor shall provide a detailed daily report to WTF and CUC to include findings, cause of leak, steps taken to resolve the problem, materials used and type of testing performed.
- Contractor shall check all water customer service and shall report to WTF and CUC overflowing cisterns/tanks for CUC-Water Division enforcement.
- Contractor shall isolate the line subjected for repairs and shall take various pressure readings at different times before and after the repair. Contractor shall submit a pressure reading logs. Contractor shall ensure that all existing customers affected by line isolation are reconnected to the water system.
- Asphalt Road restoration.
- Repairs procedures shall be in compliance with the requirements of the CUC Water Division, DEQ, AWWA Standards, OSHA regulations and USDOT FHWA standards.

A non-refundable payment of $500 to CNMI Treasury is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after **November 5, 2012** at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at **10:00** a.m., on **November 16, 2012**, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit will be made as a part of the pre-bid meeting.

All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 664-2279. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:00 PM on **November 15, 2012**.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, contained in the CNMI Administrative Code, Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Sealed bids must be marked "**IFB13-GOV-022**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 pm local time **December 4, 2012**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 2:00 pm local time **December 4, 2012**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **December 4, 2012**, and must be received no later than **December 14, 2012**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, **December 14, 2012**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time on **December 4, 2012**.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/Benigno R. Fitial
Governor and Contracting Officer

/s/Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement and Supply

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-GOV-021
LANDFILL EQUIPMENT

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, are soliciting competitive sealed proposals according to the requirements of N.M.I.A.C. § 70-30.3-210 from qualified vendors to provide equipment for use at landfills on the Island of Tinian and Island of Rota. Proposal is to include costs associated with: equipment; training; extended warranty; delivery; maintenance; and training as identified in specifications. Equipment proposed must be similar to landfill equipment identified in the scope of work and be of a type commonly used in landfill operations in the United States. The specific pieces of equipment sought are the following:

1. Two tracked bulldozers;
2. Two backhoe loaders; and
3. Two hydraulic excavators.

Submitted proposals will be evaluated on a possible 100 points based on the following factors:

50 points – price
50 points – experience of equipment in similar operations in United States locations and compliance with preferred model specification

All proposers will be subject to a responsibility determination as identified in NMIAC § 70-30.3-245 ("Responsibility Determination") which will evaluate whether the vendor has experience and resources for the required financing, warranty, and maintenance services. Proposals from parties who fail to meet the requirements of the Responsibility Determination will not be considered. Award shall be made to the responsible offer or whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

Proposals should address each item identified in the evaluation structure and must follow the proposal structure as identified in the proposal packet that can be obtained from the Office of Procurement & Supply. Proposal packets will be available on November 7, 2012 (ChST) at Office of Capital Improvement - Juan Sablan Memorial Building - Capitol Hill (670-664-2375). Proposals must pay particular attention to the preferred identified equipment specification and use this as a guide in submission of proposals. All questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. on November 23, 2012 (ChST) to the Office of Capital Improvement via fax to (670-664-2408).

The selected vendor will be required to comply with all applicable Commonwealth and Federal laws. All proposals must be sealed and marked RFP13-GOV-021 Landfill Equipment Proposal on the forms provided and include an original and four copies and must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m., Thursday, December 6, 2012 (ChST) to:

Herman S. Sablan, Director
Marianas Procurement & Supply - Lower Base
P.O. Box 510008 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals. Proposers bear all risk concerning delivery. For further information contact the Office of Capital Improvement 670-664-2375. All proposals become the property of the Commonwealth.

/s/ BENIGNO R. FITIAL, Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

NMC Intersession Term application deadline on Dec. 6

The Northern Marianas College will be offering academic courses during the Intersession Term, in which courses will meet for about three weeks from Dec. 19, 2012, to Jan. 9, 2013.

The purpose of the Intersession Term is to help students who need one or two courses to graduate or for those who want to lighten their academic load during upcoming semesters.

The college will be accepting applications from new and returning students (those who did not take courses during the fall 2012 semester) for the Intersession Term until Dec. 6, 2012.

Note that supporting documents (i.e. transcripts from institutions previously attended, health evaluation form, and copy of a valid photo I.D.) must also be turned in before the day of registration. Application forms submitted after the deadline will be processed for the following semester, spring 2013.

New and returning students are required to attend a student orientation in order to register. Two sessions are scheduled on Dec. 17, 2012. If you are unable to attend either session, contact the Office of Student Activities and Leadership at 234-5498 ext. 1253.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis on elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

For more information about the Intersession, log on to www.nmcnet.edu to view the Frequently-Asked-Questions section, class schedules, and important dates. For additional information or inquiries, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 234-5498 Ext. 1524. ***(NMC)***

IMPORTANT DATES

Dec. 6: Deadline to apply for admission for NMC's Intersession Term

Dec. 17: Mandatory new and returning student orientation at NMC Student Center (Building J)

- Session 1: 9am – 12pm
- Session 2: 4pm – 7pm

Dec. 18-19: Intersession Term 2012 registration, 8am – 5pm

Dec. 19: First day of class

Jan. 9: Last day of class

Jan. 10: Final exam day

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

November 26, 2001

Salary hike for govt workers suspended

Declining revenues prompted the Civil Service Commission to suspend certain mandatory salary increases for government employees, as part of the austerity measure implemented by the administration of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio. Saying that the situation calls for an emergency, the Commission has come up with a rule that suspended provisions in the Personnel Service System Rules pertaining to mandatory salary increases. The measure covers civil servants in different CNMI government agencies, including the Department of Labor and Immigration, which circulated a memorandum to its offices last week in connection with the emergency rule.

NMI included in Feds' $100M tourism promotional package

A $100-million promotional grant for tourism may soon be made available to all states and territories of the United States, including the CNMI, as an added stimulus to an industry that is seeing all-time lows due to the 9/11 tragedy. A bill has been introduced at the US House of Representatives that seeks to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to issue grants to states and territories to be used for advertising that stimulates economic activity by promoting travel and tourism. House Resolution 3321, which was introduced by Rep. Mark Foley, has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

November 26, 2002

Govt mulls reduced rebates

The House of Representatives is heavily deliberating on the possibility of reducing the amount of rebates paid out to CNMI taxpayers, on top of the string of austerity schemes initiated to minimize government deficit. Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider affirmed yesterday that unless the administration supports any new measures that would spur more revenues, the government would be left with no choice but to entertain the option of decreasing the rebate amount. "The House is considering heavily on [this] because if the administration does not support any new revenues such as the user fee for the purpose of meeting its obligations, then we have no other choice but to look at potentially reducing the rebate amount so that we still meet our obligations," the Speaker told re-porters yesterday.

US grants for PSS up 83 percent

Consolidated federal grants for the Public School System increased from $4.8 million last fiscal year to over $10 million for FY2003, records showed. In his report during the Board of Education meeting yesterday, PSS federal program officer William P. Matson said the additional funding was a result of the passage of the No Child Left Behind law early this year. "We've got a significant increase for 2003. This came with the adoption of the new federal rules and regulations," Matson said. The use of the consolidated funds can be flexible depending on the PSS' set priorities.

November 26, 2003

Heinz: Elect senators NMI-wide

House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider is dead serious about pursuing what he admitted would be a difficult and lengthy proposition: Making the position of senators a CNMI-wide election, while maintaining the equal representation of three senators per senatorial district. The Saipan congressman reiterated yesterday what he had raised during the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation session Monday night, when SNILD members convened to, among others, "condemn" the decision by the Senate majority to suspend all three Saipan senators and one Tinian member. "I'm very serious," he told reporters, while conceding that amending the Covenant to achieve this goal would be a very challenging task.

DEQ tracks source of lagoon pollution

The drainage outfalls near the Garapan Hotel District were responsible for rapid algal growth in the Saipan lagoon. Initial findings in a study showed that runoff from the drainages flow in the direction of the Lighthouse Channel, with an average current speed of 0.04 meter per second. The slow movement stays the nutrients carried by runoff to within approximately half-a-kilometer from the shoreline, promoting algal growth while resulting in the death of seagrasses. As pollution from the runoff moves further, it moves faster so that nutrients dilute faster before reaching the reef area across the Garapan Fishing Base.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Workshop for W-2CM tax form

The Division of Revenue and Taxation, Department of Finance, is advising all employers they there will be a workshop for the Annual Wage and Salary Statement, Form W-2CM, for tax year 2012 and other 2012 year end filing requirements. The workshop will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2012. The first session will be from 8am to 11am and the second session will be from 1pm to 4pm at the Multi-Purpose Center. Businesses, employers, and all payroll service companies are encouraged to attend. Confirm your attendance by calling the Administration Office of the Division of Revenue and Taxation at telephone numbers 664-1098 or fax at 664-1015. ***(DOF)***

Scholarship Office board meeting set

The CNMI Scholarship Office board will be having a meeting today, Nov. 26, at 1pm at the Scholarship Office Bldg. No. 1326. Items to be discussed include the CNMI membership to WICHE Membership; FA 2012 Appeals; and discussion of EAP and PL 14-37 Honors regulations. ***(PR)***

SSHS half-day session today

The Saipan Southern High School will have a half-day session today, Nov. 26, as teachers will be at a Cluster Professional Development seminar. Students will be released at 1:05pm and the bus will pick up students at 1:05pm. Students will attend all their classes and lunch will be served. For more information contact the main office at 237-3710. ***(SSHS)***

DUI checkpoints on Saipan

The Department of Public Safety will be conducting DUI/sobriety checkpoints on Saipan on Nov. 30, 2012, with the first setup from 12am to 1:15am, along Beach Road Chalan Laulau by Char's Mart. The second setup is from 2:30am to 3:45am, along Chalan Pale' Arnold by the Commonwealth Development Authority Office. Traffic and patrol officers will also be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser (speed detection) enforcement. ***(DPS)***

UOG offers comprehensive NCLEX review course

The University of Guam offers a comprehensive NCLEX Review course designed for individuals who have completed a Registered Nurse program but who have not taken the NCLEX-RN examination. Interested individuals must attend the orientation session on Dec. 14 at 10am in Room 229, UOG Health Science Building, School of Nursing and Health Sciences, UOG Campus. The course will begin March 2 and run through August 2013. Registration fees are $1,060 for 265 hours of instruction. Review books will be an additional cost. Deadline to register is Feb. 15, 2013. For more information, contact Cathleen Moore-Linn at 735-2600/1 cmoore@uguam.uog.edu or Karen Cruz at 735-2660 or kcruz@uguam.uog.edu. ***(UOG)***

Military training on FDM

The U.S. military will be conducting exercises on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla on Nov. 29, from 12:30pm to 8:30pm, and on Nov. 30, from 9am to 12pm and 12pm to 8pm. The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla training area on a 10-nautical-mile radius on all quadrants. Due to the danger imposed by this activity, the Emergency Management Office is strongly advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated. ***(EMO)***

CCA board meeting tomorrow

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding its monthly meeting tomorrow, Nov. 27, 2012, at 3pm at the CCA conference room. The agenda includes reports from the president, steering committees, program manager, and program/project updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the CCA at 682-0050 or email at cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(CCA)***

'Trash-a-thon' for MHS Class of '83

The MHS Class of 1983 would like to invite classmates to a "Trash-a-thon" on Saturday, Dec. 1 and Dec. 8, 2012. For more information or details, call Tonnei Camacho at 483-9665. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Job Vacancy Announcement

JVA No. 12-037

Opening Date: Friday, 11/09/12
Closing Date: Until Filled

Petroleum and Compliance Manager

RESPONSIBILITIES AND OPPORTUNITY OFFERED:
Reporting directly to CUC's Executive Director or designee, the Petroleum and Compliance Manager fills a position required by the Stipulated Order ("SO") of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, Civil Case No. CV 08-0051. Position is known in the SO as the Technical Manager for Oil (TMO).

- The SO states: "The TMO shall be primarily responsible for overseeing, all oil spill prevention, preparedness and response operations and compliance activities and deliverables, on a daily basis, as required by Stipulated Order. The TMO shall be the person responsible for maintaining regular contact with EPA staff regarding Section 311 CWA compliance issues…The TMO will have authority to make decisions for management and operations of oil related items required by Stipulated Order."
- Additional examples of duties may include but is not limited to:
  - Plan and implement, using resources provided by CUC or other agencies, all oil, fuels (whether waste or clean), projects and programs in accordance with accepted industry standards and practices.
  - Communicate regularly with USEPA, DEQ, USCG and other regulatory agencies to ensure that CUC is meeting relevant environmental regulations and laws pertaining to oil and fuels.
  - Troubleshoot problems of engineering or of a technical nature relating to oil that may arise in operations of CUC whether at the power plants, power transmission & distribution or water and wastewater divisions.
  - Prepare Capital Improvement Project (CIP) submissions as required in order for CUC to secure funding.
  - Prepare scope of work for oil projects whether outsourced (contracted) or performed in-house.
  - Oversee and inspect tanks, containments, berms, pipelines & appurtenances and all other facilities that pertain to oil and fuels.
  - Specify equipment and materials necessary for the proper management of oil and fuel including storage, containment, disposal, spill prevention, and clean-up.
  - Prepare specifications for oil-related projects that are bid out.
  - Coordinate spill response with other agencies such as the oil companies.
  - Arrange for analyses of oil and fuels including power distribution equipment with EPA-approved laboratories.
  - Supervise all oil clean-up, recovery, recycling or disposal activities at CUC.
  - Assist the Deputy Executive Director and/or Executive Director in responding to formal requests or orders from Federal or Commonwealth regulatory agencies.
  - Participate in CUC-wide strategic planning.
  - Maintain training and education certification related to oil work.
  - Ensure workers under supervision are trained and acutely aware of safety and environmental requirements.
  - Coordinate activities with the managers and supervisors at Power Generation.
  - Recruit necessary staff to ensure oil management functions are met.
  - Additional Responsibilities: Assist Water and Wastewater Divisions with technical support for water reservoirs and tanks; assist with other duties related to Stipulated Orders as requested by the Executive Director.
- Other duties of a similar nature or level as assigned or required.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:
Successful candidates for CUC's Petroleum & Compliance Manager must have the following:

- "Completion of four (4) years of college, or its equivalent, with major work in engineering, science or other field related to work in engineering, science or other field related to work with project management and/or environmental compliance, and one (1) to three (3) years of experience with oil spill, prevention, preparedness and response, environmental assessment, construction oversight or power plant operations"
- "Proven management and communication skills"
- "Demonstrated ability to lead, motivate, and develop staff"
- "Experience with managing environmental and/or construction projects during period of planning, design, and construction"
- "Further, the TMO should have experience with one or more of the following: oil storage, use, transportation and disposal; assessment and cleanup of contaminated sites; environmental compliance; development of statements of work; oversight of contractors; staff training and development; and federal oil spill prevention, preparedness and response requirements."
- A CNMI driver's license or one from another U.S. jurisdiction is required.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:
Although not required, successful candidates preferably will have:

- Master's degree in engineering and registration as a Professional Engineer pursuant to the National Council of Engineering Examiners standards in civil, mechanical, or chemical engineering; Certification in API tank inspection;
- Management experience of at least ten (10) years in a multi-service utility, public works or petroleum tank farm operation.

SALARY INFORMATION:
Current salary and years of specialized experience will determine the appropriate salary level within the range of $70,000.00 to $130,000.00 per annum. This position is employed under a two-year contract and is both un-graded and un-classified.

RELOCATION EXPENSES:
If hired from outside the CNMI, relocation expenses are negotiable; but they are not to exceed $10,000.00 for moving to Saipan and not to exceed $5,000.00 for moving away from Saipan. Other conditions may be applicable.

SUBMISSION PROCESS:
To apply, please submit a resume, cover letter, a list of references, and a CUC Employment Application by one of the following means:

1. United States Postal Service, First Class Mail or Priority Mail*:
   Human Resource Office
   Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
   P. O. Box 501220
   Saipan, MP 96950-1220 USA
   *If you choose to submit via USPS, please still also fax "or" drop off your package.
2. Fax:
   670-235-5131
3. Drop Off:
   Drop off your package to the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the CUC Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

POLICIES:
The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer and will not discriminate or tolerate any discrimination against any employee or applicant in any manner prohibited by law.

It is also the policy of CUC to achieve a drug-free workplace and persons selected for employment will be required to pass a drug test which screens for illegal drug use prior to final appointment.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Job Vacancy Announcement

JVA No.: 12-038

Opening Date: Friday, 11/09/12
Closing Date: Until Filled

IN-HOUSE LEGAL COUNSEL

RESPONSIBILITIES AND OPPORTUNITY OFFERED:
Reporting directly to CUC's Executive Director, In-House Counsel is entrusted with several matters. For example, CUC's In-House Counsel:

- Provides formal and informal legal advice to management.
- Drafts and reviews a broad range of legal documents, including legal opinions, proposed agency decisions, memoranda, contracts and other procurement documents.
- Represents CUC at a variety of meetings, negotiations and hearings.
- Provides legal oversight of procurement contracts for goods, services and construction.
- Assists management with developing policy and regulations to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulatory policies, including both local and federal statutes.
- Investigates and implements necessary actions for compliance with laws and corporate policies.
- Works closely with outside counsel regarding ongoing litigation.
- Advises management of a variety of legal issues, including, but not limited to, billing disputes, human resource matters, property-related disputes, contract negotiations and interpretations, and personal-injury claims.
- Assists management with developing policy and regulations.
- Performs short- and long-range strategic planning.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:
Successful candidates for CUC's In-House Counsel must:

- Hold a law degree from an accredited U.S. law school.
- Be a current member in good standing of the bar of any state within the United States, the CNMI or Guam.
- If not currently a member of the CNMI Bar, be eligible for prompt admission to the CNMI Bar. For admission requirements, visit http://www.cnmilaw.org/court_rules.htm.
- Have excellent interpersonal skills, be mature and self-sufficient, communicate effectively orally and in writing, and possess excellent professional judgment.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:
Although not required, successful candidates preferably will have:

- Experience with utility law, federal and/or state energy regulatory law, and government procurement.
- Contract drafting and negotiation skills.
- Familiarity with working in a highly regulated industry.
- An understanding of the economics of electric power.
- A working knowledge of the legal and commercial issues involved in procurement, construction contracts, project finance, operations and maintenance agreements, and other utility project agreements.
- Experience working for or appearing before a federal regulatory agency.
- Strong business judgment and the ability to understand and respond to business issues and needs.
- Self-motivation, self-discipline and be results-oriented, with an ability to manage priorities and workflow.
- The ability to independently, and handle both small and large matters with equal effectiveness and enthusiasm.
- A background in finance, accounting, engineering or economics.
- The ability to manage multiple complex matters simultaneously.

SALARY INFORMATION:
Current salary and years of specialized experience will determine the appropriate salary level within the range of $65,000.00 to $115,000.00 per annum. This position is employed under a two-year contract and is both un-graded and un-classified.

RELOCATION EXPENSES:
If hired from outside the CNMI, not to exceed $10,000.00 for relocation to Saipan and not to exceed $5,000.00 for relocation away from Saipan. Other conditions may be applicable.

SUBMISSION PROCESS:
To apply, please submit a resume, cover letter, a list of references, and a CUC Employment Application by one the following means:

1. United States Postal Service, First Class or Priority Mail*:
   Human Resource Office
   Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
   P. O. Box 501220
   Saipan, MP 96950-1220 USA
   *If you choose to submit via USPS, please still also fax "or" drop off your package.
2. Fax:
   670-235-5131
3. Drop Off:
   Drop off your package to the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the CUC Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

POLICIES:
The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer and will not discriminate or tolerate discrimination against any employee or applicant in any manner prohibited by law.

It is the policy of CUC to achieve a drug-free workplace and persons selected for employment will be required to pass a drug test which screens for illegal drug use prior to final appointment.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXII, Issue No. 277

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Full debate needed on hunger relief

The holiday season is a time to be grateful for what we have and to be compassionate toward those who are hurting. One in seven Americans relies on government assistance for food.

U.S. House Republicans not only want to cut that aid by $16 billion or more over 10 years, they continue to dodge a needed public debate over the nation's growing poverty problem and the role government should play in addressing it.

Government aid, known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), accounts for 80 percent of the overall farm bill. Nearly 47 million people receive benefits from the program, which costs about $80 billion per year. Because of the nation's budget woes, cuts to the program were expected. The battle in Congress is over how much.

With bipartisan support, the Senate passed its farm bill in June, with $4 billion in cuts to SNAP over 10 years, or four times less than the House version. The House Agriculture Committee adopted its bipartisan version in July, but House Speaker John Boehner refused to bring it to the floor for debate.

At the time, Boehner said he didn't have the votes to pass the bill, but members of both parties disputed that claim. In reality, the GOP's presidential campaign had already alienated a large swath of voters by deriding President Obama as the "food stamp president" and describing Americans as "givers or takers." Candidate Mitt Romney's "47 percent" gaffe and Rep. Paul Ryan's desire to turn food stamps into a state block-grant program also served to highlight the issue.

Boehner likely didn't want the GOP to be debating aid to the poor before the election any more than he does now that the party is dealing with the fallout from Romney's Nov. 6 defeat amid criticism that he ran an "elitist" campaign.

With the election season in full swing in September, GOP House leaders allowed the 2008 farm bill to expire, thrusting the nation's farmers, agribusinesses, conservationists and others into perilous economic uncertainty.

Boehner promised to deal with the bill during the lame-duck session, but the House only has a few days left to debate its version, adopt it and send it to a House-Senate conference committee to reconcile the two versions. Instead of that route, GOP leaders may try to wrap the legislation into a package dealing with the "fiscal cliff," which would also minimize public debate about the impact of the cuts to SNAP.

Obama has suggested $32 billion in agricultural cuts over 10 years. The House Agricultural Committee's version of the farm bill calls for $35 billion in cuts over that time period, while the Senate's would save $23 billion. The Senate could save more by cutting overly generous crop insurance payouts.

Congress could choose to extend the 2008 bill or take up the new proposals in January, when committee changes could cause further delays. That's not a good option.

Both the House and Senate versions have flaws beyond SNAP that should be debated openly. To dodge the public forum that Congress provides simply isn't acceptable.

©2012 Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Get up! Stand up! Do it!

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

The recent election in the CNMI has proved that we can Get up! Stand up! and Do it! We can make a major difference in our society. Yes, truth coupled with unity of strength, has prevailed. The outcry for our governor to either resign or be impeached also proves that you and I can make a difference. Our life is not dependent on what others decide for us. We are part of all decisions. At times, however, too many of us for various reasons forfeit the right to affect the outcome of decisions. But we have proven to ourselves that we can Get up! Stand up! and Do it!

For the past years we have been beating the doomsday drum and singing dirges signifying the end is imminent. To some of us it appears that all that is left is the packing of our bags and saying goodbye to friends and moving on. Saipan is lost and there is nothing that we can do.

But today I woke up and decided to reject the dark shadow of pessimism. Instead I decided to change my *attitude* and sing about the joys of living and the spirit of the future in the CNMI. I was determined to examine what is good and hopeful about the dismal economic situation. I must wrestle with it. I wanted to examine my feelings on where my life was heading. After a few minutes I decided that there is much to feel blessed about. All I had to do was change my *attitude* at how I saw and thought about things.

I recently read *Meditations*, a book written by the Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius, in which he reminded me that life is composed of opinions. He went to say there is nothing wrong or right but our opinions about it. Change our opinion and we change the world that troubles us. So I decided to change my opinion.

You may wonder what I am ranting about this morning. Why this note of optimism? It is because we must persist despite all odds. Another author, Michael Medved, stated in a speech: "Whenever our vision may be clouded by the fog of pessimism, we should recall we have deeper reasons for confidence and joy." So this morning let's talk about optimism.

We proved that we can make a difference in our society just last month. Now we have to finish the job. We must continue the self-respect and dignity we showed last month. Self-respect keeps us from accepting those bribes that reward us for violating our integrity. But taking that first bribe rewards us for violating our integrity and weakens us so that it makes it more difficult to resist future bribes. And so a vicious weakening cycle takes hold. Bribes come cloaked in many ways. The bribe can be the promise of a job, a favor, or a promise for something.

Upon awakening I glanced at my sleeping wife and felt how close and important she is in my life. She looked so serene with a slight smile upon her face. I walked into the next room to my sleeping children. Pausing over their beds, I silently offered a prayer of thanks for them. My family was healthy and happy. As a result I also felt healthy and happy. At this moment I felt no animosity toward anyone or anything. Instead I felt elated in this states of quietness. I realized deeply that I must improve myself and maintain self-respect and integrity. I do not want to bring shame upon them. After all I am their guardian.

About eight o'clock I arrived at my office. I greeted everyone and began to check the previous day's activities. After checking accounts and discussing them with my manager, I began to assess the current business situation. Sales had been dropping, though everyone has been working hard. We realized that there is less money for people to spend. What to do about it?

I began a series of cost-saving activities. I began to monitor my employees' hours more closely. We made sure that we would not have waste. All extra lights were turned off when not needed. All these problems made me think about and more closely control the activities in the company. But I refused to become downhearted. I recalled that when I began the business it was also tough and uncertain.

For lunch I joined a friend. He and I discussed similar problems. At first we began to point fingers and blame others for our misfortune. As we departed, I began to reflect on our discussion of finger pointing. Again a thought from Marcus Aurelius popped into my head: "Receive wealth or prosperity without arrogance; be ready to let it go." I thought God had given me the opportunity to succeed and perhaps he was slowly taking it back. Surely another opportunity will appear. I was determined to work harder and remain positive. I was ready to Get up! Stand up! and Do it! I must improve my situation.

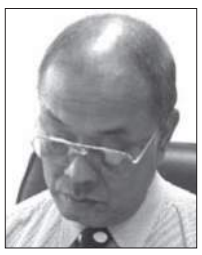
Folks, I am not trying to preach on what we should do or not do.

See GET UP on Next Page

Sentimientun Amku'

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



Pa'gu mafattu i amku' ginen tumatalaya giya Laulau. Tumunok i biha yan lagu'a tiao. Sige guatu gi kusina keke'yau gi famokatña. Ha tutuhon gumonaf i guihan siha. Dispues ha sañganeyu' para bai' sagan ñaihon ya bai' fan hame man-amotsan talo'ane.

Gaige si Tun Jose gi halom tinanom dagu para u hale' i inenkatgaghu. Ha chulele' guatu un' rasimon choddan tanduke. I dagu para bai' fahan i cheda suetteghu.

Sige dispues i dos amku' masañgan i guaguan amot yan setbisiun hinemlu' gi hospitat. "Mauleg na guaha Medicaid 'sino hame umapagaye todu gastun hospitat". Sin ayu na ayudu dudayu' kau mana' siña i kobransa siha deste amot yan setbisiun mediku.

Hagas offisiun gualu i dos amku'. Tai benefisiu si Tun Jose insurance pot hagas ha usune linala' lancheru. Ni tai pine'lu i amku' sa' ayu ma-ususune i dididi' na finatinas niha ginen kusechan tinanom yan pinegsai. Ti listu lokue' rumesibe ayudun food stamps lau 'nai esta mababatsala siha i dos, ma-usune ayu na ayudu. "Mauleg na guaha nu este na ayudu 'sino sale ham ha' de chumochun mañglu' gi haane".

Ha kone'yu' tatte este na sentimientu gi gastun linala' guine. Megai man-inaminanasa ni guaguan fektus 'nai gi mismu tiempu i sueddu gatdun gi aplacha' fache' baban ekonomia.

Yangin retirau hau, i pagamientomu yan haf" un' resisibe ginen US Social Security (kumu esta hau 62 años) ti nahoñg para otru siha nesessidat familia. Suette yangin guaha ayudun food stamps. Lau haf' ya ni este na ayudu taya'? Mampos yayamag sensia i megai man-ginacha' didog na chinatsaga 'nai ni para apas nesessidat tinahoñg.

Umafagcha' i baban kinalamten yan man-ñaba' man-ma'gasta. Taya' maprekukura fuera ke interest niha. De dios na diskuidu!

■■■

Esperansa

Guaha 'nai hu guadog papa' i fondun konsensiaghu para bai' ñgelu' kau mañiñila ha' i guafen esperansa. Maseha sumen dikiki' guafiña kumu mañiñila' esta mauleg para guahu.

Hu rikononose este na patte gi ha'anihu sa' mampos oppan yan didog i te'ug na pinadesen I linahyan. Todu ha' mañichichi'!

Hu ke letke i asuntu. Lau tula noche hana' kilulogyu' gi asonhu. Un' atan ñaihon haf' masusesede gi halom estrakadan politika. Te'ug na inadisgustu. Mas makat satbasion interes linahyan gi este na rimulinun manloka' lañgat.

Ileghu na kumu guaha antau na sensian kabayeru libianu che'chu' hinimidde 'nai maseha ti umafagcha' hinassota parehu animu gi adelantun asuntun linahyan. Finu' i kuentos, malago' ha' i troñkun niyog dumeskansa lau mampos guaifon i ha'ane.

■■■

I prohimumu

Hu li'e' abundansia sensian yinea'se' gi korason tautau-ta gi maseha haye na prohimu ni numesessita ayudu pot achake, pineble 'sino na'mase'.

Gi ginagau ayudu, megai buluntariamente man-manlagnos ginen i korason niha. Mapresenta chinile' niha gi silensiu na sensian kilisyanu.

Mampos na'magof este na sensian tautau dikiki' na isla. Esta pa'gu gagaige ha' finana'guen mañainata sensian yine'ase' gi na'mase'. Pot essu, ti u faliñgu i ginefsaga gi ayu siha na tautau-ta i mumattit ñaihon ha'anen niha pot dichu nesessidat otru.

Esta machuchuda' este na gineftau. Mauleg ta prekura piot gi ayudun i mamoble yan man-namase' na prohimuta de hemunos kau haf' kulot lasasña pat machabaliñg mataña.

■■■

Megai giya hita man-mapogsai un' poblen guma' ayu mina' ta komprende finapos poble. Tat sabana yan taduñg halom tanu' chinatsaga tita fatoigue. Lau gi halom todu mattiru tita sotta fietmiente hineñggeta gi Saina. Ayu mina hana'e hit lokue bendisionta esta i fina' yanu na plaset. Fan man-na'e mit grasias pot todu bendision miyu.

■■■

Tafana'gue famaguonta sensian hinimidde 'nai tana' fan eyag sumañgan "Si Yuus Ma'ase". Ennau na sensia (character) siempre u fitme yan lachok gi kustumbren niha. Hamyu ni saina i dos haligen guma' ni sumustetene kreneansan famaguon miyu. Siha espehos miyu gi dispues de pettan san-mena.

■■■

Yangin mamaisen i tautau abiu, haf" signifikasion i finaiseseña? Abiu mas seriosu ke ayu na palabra i "ayudu". Pot ihemplo: Yangin un' metgot pagyu yumamag enteru Saipan. I tautau, ginen gobietnadot niha u fan mamaisen abiu ginen America. Si Iku.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Supermarkets are ripping you off

The bigger Saipan grocery stores don't care about you. They just want your money; that is the bottom line. They also don't care about good service, despite the smiles and assurances.

Today I went into one of the larger, well-known, supermarkets in Garapan near DFS. Celery was on sale for 99 cents per pound. I put a sleeve of celery into my basket, along with mushrooms, carrots, and Italian sausages.

When I got to the checkout, I watched the young fellow ring up the items. When he scanned the celery, it registered at $1.15 per pound, not 99 cents.

I said, "Wait a minute. You have a sign that says 99 cents, not $1.15." The young man looked at me, then left the register, and walked all the way back to the produce section to see if I was right. I was. Upon returning, he looked around and shouted, "Override!"

Eventually a manager appeared and asked what the problem was. I told him that there was one price in the produce department, but a higher price when it was scanned. The guy at the register nodded. "I'll report it," the manager said. "This happens all the time," I said. "I'll report that too." Sure.

Basically, this was an attempt at consumer fraud. If I had not been vigilant they would have gouged me for 60 cents or so. A small amount to be sure; but if you think of the hundreds of people who buy things in that store, the overcharges can grow into the thousands of dollars. Thing is, most people are too shy—or too foreign—to question the person at the register. I wonder how many non-English speaking tourists are overcharged each day? I bet plenty.

But there's more.

The same thing happened with the sausages. There was no label on the package, but there was a sticker on the edge of the freezer. It was the only JVill (Johnsonville) sticker that I saw: $6.59. But it rang up at the register as $7.79.

Once again the manager returned, slightly exasperated. He rang up the sausages and said the price was $7.79. I told him, "There is no sticker for $7.79 on the case, it's $6.59." He took the sausages and went back to check. I didn't wait for him; I left.

This happens every time I visit a large, well-known supermarket. Products are not labeled, or are labeled incorrectly, or scan at a higher price than the sticker says. We are all being ripped off every time we walk in.

I have politely complained numerous times, and everyone smiles and tells me they will report it, but nothing ever happens, nothing ever changes, and the prices often ring up higher than the price on the item—if there is a price tag at all.

That's another thing.

I often visit another well-known supermarket in Susupe. If I had to guess, I would say abut one third of the food items have no price tags. On more than one occasion I had to wheel a 25-lb bag of cat food to the register to be scanned, just so I could find out the price.

"Why aren't there prices on these things?" I asked the girl at the register.

"I don't know."

At another large Susupe grocery store across a church, finding prices on food items is hit-or-miss. I picked up a package of Herman's hamburger rolls. No price on it. I took it over to the cashier for a price check, but she had customers, and there were no other people available to scan it. Meanwhile, the fat, bespectacled manager smiled and walked back and forth, enjoying the fact that I had to stand and wait for the girl to take care of a few customers before she could tell me how much the hamburger rolls cost.

This is typical. It has probably happened to you. Either there is no price, or the price gets jacked up at the register. As for the management and the staff, they don't care. They apparently find it sporting that there are no prices on their items.

To those of us who have had the pleasure of shopping in a professionally-run supermarket, this kind of behavior is the pits. Young men and women will routinely stock food items, but do not put the prices on them. They just stick the stuff on the shelves, or into the freezer, and walk away.

To be fair, some items are labeled properly and scan correctly at check-out. But it is nothing that one can count on; it's a crap-shoot. You better remember the price of the item and then watch the register like a hawk. If you don't, it can cost you.

There is no oversight

The people at the top of these businesses have no obvious interest in helping the customer. They only want to sell stuff and make money. If a customer is inconvenienced, then welcome to Saipan, the land of the slip-shod, non-caring supermarkets.

It would be great if we had a consumer protection agency here, as there are in the states. These kinds of questionable business practices would stop, and pronto. In most states, there are laws against consumer fraud—that is, posting one price and then jacking it up at the point of sale. But here, it's business as usual. I repeat: They don't care, and they don't care that they don't care. If you don't like it, go somewhere else.

There is one market I like. They label everything and the price at the register is the same. It is Pretty Market on Middle Road in Garapan. If I see Italian sausage selling for $6.59, that is what I pay at the register. Absolutely everything is labeled. They are a class operation and they obviously care about their customers.

As for the major supermarkets…they need to clean up their act, price consistently, and stop ripping off the customer—whether it is for their money or time.

In upstate New York, there is a chain of supermarkets, Wegman's. They are owned and operated by the Wegman family, and there are 21 markets in the northeast. The man in charge is Danny Wegman, and he runs a tight ship. If there's a problem, you tell Danny and he will make it right. It's his name over the door. As a result, business is so good that they continue to open more supermarkets and expand their product lines. They have legions of devoted customers, and for good reason. Danny and his employees bend over backwards to make sure the customer is well treated.

If the people who run the major Saipan supermarkets would realize that they would make more money if they ran their stores professionally, then we would all benefit in the long run. But I am not holding my breath.

Russ Mason
Oleai, Saipan

GET UP

From Page 10

I don't know any better than you. But if we come to terms with ourselves we can create a better society. We must stop having the government dictate every more we make. The government is meant to govern us, not to dictate what we must do and then take opportunities away from us.

A good government helps to create economic opportunities for us by creating chances for work. But not in the government itself. It should not employ us so that we become dependent on it. Much work done by government employees can and should be jobbed out to private companies. A good government understands our needs and tries to guide us and motivate us. It seeks opportunities to increase exports, which will increase imports of dollars. It should be like a father concerned about its children. Is that asking too much?

We have begun to correct our past. Now we must continue and finish the job. Let us tell the government what is needed and that we are willing to sacrifice and work toward that end. The U.S. government will help us also if we reach out and ask for their help. To date they have given us so much money to improve ourselves, but have we used the money as wisely as we could?

It will be an exciting new year. I am determined to be successful not just in improving my company, but in my personal life as well. I am going to like myself, and I will practice integrity. I will cooperate with my community to make it a better one because I will change my attitude. I am going to Get up! Stand up! and Do it! Join with me and let's do it together. We just proved that we can. Let's continue.

Someone once said: "A successful man is one who can lay a firm foundation with the bricks others have thrown at him." And finally from Marcus Aurelius: "Waste no more time arguing about what a good man should be. Be one."

The CNMI is our home and we must work hard to make it a better place. Let us examine our attitudes and change them as necessary. We have the intelligence, we have the talent, we have the means. Now we need the determination. So again, Get up! Stand up! and Do it!

Somewhere I read: "We are each of us angels with only one wing. And we can only fly by embracing each other." In other words—together we can do great and miraculous things. Let's work together. Get up! Stand up! and Do it!

Until we meet again keep wearing that radiant smile! I wish all a belated Happy Thanksgiving.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

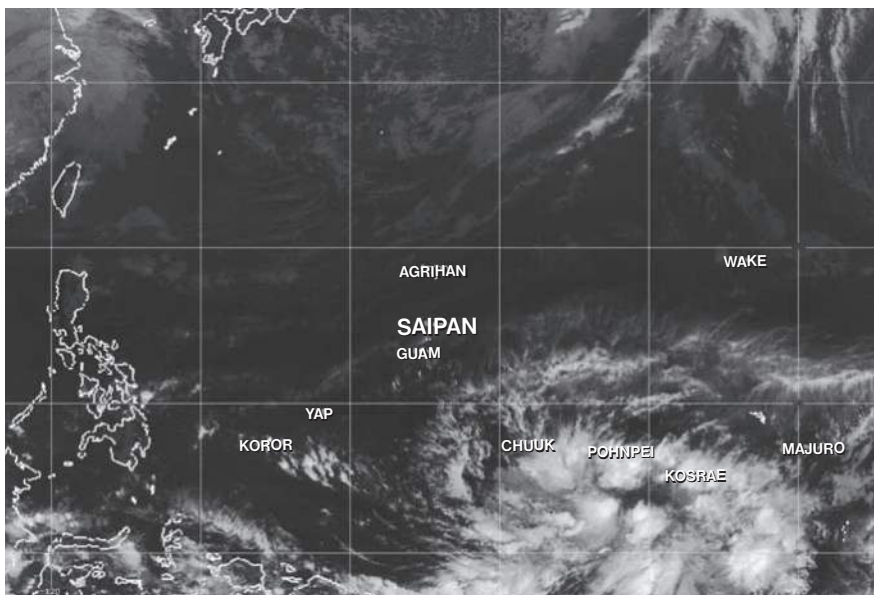
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲87	▼78
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼74
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼74
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼59
Beijing	Sunny	▲43	▼25
Hong Kong	Showers	▲74	▼64
Honolulu	Showers	▲79	▼70
London	Rain	▲47	▼39
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲73	▼52
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼78
Melbourne	Showers	▲68	▼55
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼61
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲43	▼29
Osaka	Showers	▲60	▼48
Paris	Showers	▲50	▼42
Pusan	Showers	▲55	▼33
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼47
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲46	▼35
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼52
Seoul	Showers	▲41	▼27
Tokyo	Showers	▲62	▼47
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲47	▼34

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from just northwest of Minami Tori Shima at 25N153E to beyond 130E at 17N. Patchy clouds and showers are seen along and up to 100 miles northwest of this front. A low pressure system is centered northeast of Wake Island near 25N178E. A stationary front curves westward from this system from 19N180 to 19N169E to beyond 25N162E. Low-level cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 130 miles north of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough runs eastward from 1N130E through a developing tropical disturbance centered south of Pohnpei near 3nN58E then turns northeastward to end near 5N168E. Scattered to numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring southeast of Chuuk near Pohnpei and over Kosrae south of a line from 5N149E to 8N156E to 6N170E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:17 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
7:03 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
12:17 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
5:30 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:24 AM	5:44 PM
Tuesday	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Wednesday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:27 AM	5:45 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:01 PM	4:12 AM
Tuesday	4:44 PM	5:02 AM
Wednesday	5:29 PM	5:51 AM
Thursday	6:16 PM	6:41 AM
Friday	7:05 PM	7:29 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOV. 21, 2012

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL297	4:25pm	7:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-PUSAN (BUS)			
0Z608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 6, 7
0Z608	3:30am	6:40am	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
0Z606	2:10am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU7108	2:50am	5:55am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)			
VLK1734	2:00am	8:15am	5 every other week
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
0Z606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1
0Z606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:20pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
0Z604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
0Z606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	10:30pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/749	3:20pm	11:20pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:05am	7:55am	Daily
UA5073	9:50am	10:40am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
PUSAN (BUS)-SAIPAN			
0Z607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 5, 6
0Z607	9:35pm	2:25am+1	2
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
0Z603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
0Z605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU7107	6:30pm	1:50am+1	2, 4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN			
VLK1733	8:00pm	12:05am+1	4 every other week
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
0Z704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA702/605	12:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:55am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:59pm	7:55am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
0Z746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z724/605	1:50pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
0Z724/605	1:50pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5073	11:25pm	10:40am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

US Embassy funds piggery demonstration site in Pohnpei

U.S. Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia Doria Rosen participated in a groundbreaking ceremony for a new U.S.-funded dry litter piggery at the College of Micronesia National Campus on Monday, Nov. 19. The piggery will serve as a demonstration site to assist farmers with learning new methods for decreasing adverse environmental impacts caused by raising pigs.

USDA Natural Resources and Conservation Services estimates that there are over 3,000 piggeries on Pohnpei. The impact of these piggeries can be found in local streams and rivers after farmers wash the daily pig waste into nearby water sources, making the rivers unsafe for swimming. E. coli, cholera, and leptospirosis are serious illnesses that may be caused by swimming in water contaminated by pig waste.

Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease that affects humans and animals. It is caused by bacteria of the genus *Leptospira*. In humans, it can cause a wide range of symptoms, some of which may be mistaken for other diseases. Some infected persons, however, may have no symptoms at all. Without treatment, leptospirosis may lead to kidney damage, meningitis, liver failure, respiratory distress, and sometimes even death.

Pohnpei law requires all piggeries to be built at least 50 feet from the nearest stream, river, or shoreline. The number of the piggeries not in compliance with the existing law is unknown. Dry litter piggeries do not use water to wash pigpens, and can help alleviate the problem of pig waste contaminating Pohnpei's fragile ecosystem.

Dry litter piggeries use wood chips to line the floors of the piggeries. The waste materials are then composted, producing high temperatures, which destroy leptospirosis and other harmful bacteria. The finished compost can then be put on crops, as a safe and sustainable fertilizer.

The issue of pig waste pollution in fresh water sources has brought the entire diplomatic corps together with all local embassies (People's Republic of China, Japan, Australia, and the U.S.) promoting environmentally sound and sustainable pig farming practices. The Embassy of Japan provided the Pohnpei state government with two large wood chippers to assist in production of wood chips, and the Embassy of the People's Republic of China assists local farmers by installing biogas plants to create reusable energy using pig waste. A number of other projects are currently under consideration, and other members of the international donor community are considering funding projects to reduce pollution caused by pig waste.

There are currently four dry litter piggeries projects in operation or in the process of being built. AusAID has funded an operational dry litter piggery at the Sei Farm. The IWRM (Integrated Water Resources Management) has funded a piggery project in Nett as part of the Nett Watershed Management Intervention along the Nanpil River. The latest piggery project is at COM-FSM and is funded by the U.S. A fourth project was initiated by a private sector farmer using his own funds. The current project on the COM-FSM campus is expected to be completed and operational by the end of December. ***(U.S. Embassy)***

From left to right (front row): Kiyoshi Phillip (Dean of Agriculture – COM), Snyther Biza, (chair of the Math/Science Department) , Jim Currie (V.P. Extension Office – COM), Joseph Habuchmai (V.P. Administrative Services – COM), U.S. Ambassador Doria Rosen, and two COM agriculture students.
U.S. EMBASSY

Eat out for the environment on Friday

To help preserve the Commonwealth's precious natural resources, residents of Saipan are being encouraged to eat out on Friday, Nov. 30, 2012, at select restaurants that have agreed to donate a portion of their revenue from that day to the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, or MINA.

For this year's event, participating restaurants include Isla Cafe (at the Kanoa Resort), Chambré Restaurant (at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan), 360 Restaurant, Shenanigan's, and Naked Fish.

"Each of these restaurants has agreed to donate a portion of their proceeds that they make on Nov. 30, 2012," said Sam Sablan, executive director for the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance. "We are encouraging everyone who cares for the environment and who wants to contribute in some way to the preservation of our precious natural resources to eat at one or two of these restaurants for lunch and dinner."

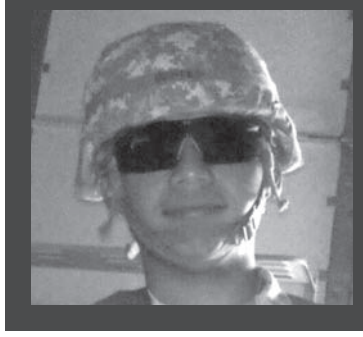
The Mariana Islands Nature Alliance is a community-based, nonprofit organization that was formed by a group of people whose dedication and compassion for the environment felt the need to promote and advocate for the protection and restoration of our natural resources in the Commonwealth.

Some of the projects that MINA has been involved in include the Marine Debris Program, the Environmental Teach Camp, Obyan Revegetation Project, the Tasi Watch Program, and other projects.

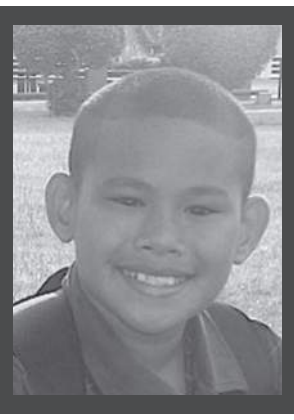
MINA will use the proceeds from the Eating Out for the Environment event to support and sustain community projects.

To participate, residents are asked to bring their friends and family to eat out at any of the participating restaurants on Nov. 30, 2012. ***(MINA)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy 22nd birthday to a diehard soldier and a very head on teacher, Michael Richer Pacia Berbes! It's your day, enjoy and relax. May your day be blessed with nothing but smiles! Love always, "Never Leave."
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday to our Mr. Snuggles! We love you so much, boy. Greetings come from Mommy, Daddy, your siblings, and Fluffy.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP13-DOC-025

Submission Date: December 24, 2012 Time: 2:00 p.m.

"Development of the CNMI's Rate Review Office Information Technology Reporting System for the Department of Commerce"

Copies of the Scope of Work may be obtained at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, during regular working hours.

Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. John S. Blanco, CNMI's Rate Review Program Administrator (670) 664-3067 or e-mail to cnmiratereview@commerce.gov.mp no later than the **close of business, December 13, 2012**.

This is a federally funded project; as such, local preference is not avaiable because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfections in the best interest of the Commonwealth.

/s/ Sixto K. Igisomar
Secretary of Commerce

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13—OPA-027

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 10, 2012 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"FINANCIAL AUDITS OF THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE'S CREDIT UNION FOR THE YEARS ENDING DECEMER 31, 2009, 2010 AND 2011"

THE AUDIT GUIDELINES AND SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE PUBLIC AUDITOR'S MAIN OFFICE AT 1236 YAP DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M., MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, EXCEPT HOLIDAYS.

INQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO MR. ROSS ZAPANTA, ANALYST MANAGER, AT TELEPHONE NUMBERS (670) 322-6481/2 OR BY FACSIMILE TO (670) 322-7812.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118. THE APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ MICHAEL PAI
PUBLIC AUDITOR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

/S/ LARRISA C. LARSON
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled on **Tuesday, November 27, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan**. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMARY MATTERS
a. Call to Order
b. Roll Call
c. Adoption of Agenda
d. Adoption of Minutes
i. Thursday, October 25, 2012 – Regular Board Meeting Minutes

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
a. LIHTC Programs
i. Isa Villas, LLC
ii. Blue Water Homes, LLC
b. Tenant-Based Voucher – Project Based Voucher Conversion
c. HOME Loans for Review and Approval
d. Marianas Medical Referral Center

IV. FIELD OFFICE REPORTS
a. Rota Field Office
b. Tinian Field Office

V. FISCAL AFFAIRS
a. Unaudited Financial Statements as of September 30, 2012

VI. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VIII. OTHER MATTERS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-13-008

WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified insurance firms to provide workers' compensation insurance and administration for CUC's employees throughout the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and when on official business away from the CNMI.

The RFP package and the scope of work may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **November 13, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)** at the CUC Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-13-008, Workers' Compensation & Administration", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than December 4, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions regarding CUC-RFP-13-008 must be submitted in writing no later than **November 16, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all offers and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Business

Thanksgiving steals sales from Black Friday

By LINDA A. JOHNSON
AP BUSINESS WRITER

Thanksgiving shopping took a noticeable bite out of Black Friday's start to the holiday season, as the latest survey found retail sales in stores fell slightly from last year.

Saturday's report from retail technology company ShopperTrak finds consumers spent $11.2 billion at stores across the U.S. That is down 1.8 percent from last year's total.

This year's Friday results appear to have been tempered by hundreds of thousands of shoppers hitting sales Thursday evening while still full of Thanksgiving dinner. Retailers including Sears, Target and Wal-Mart got their deals rolling as early as 8 p.m. on Turkey Day.

Online shopping also may have cut into the take at brick-and-mortar stores: IBM said online sales rose 17.4 percent on Thanksgiving and 20.7 percent on Black Friday, compared with 2011.

Yet ShopperTrak said retail foot traffic increased 3.5 percent, to more than 307.67 million store visits, indicating at least some shoppers were browsing but not spending freely.

"Black Friday continues to be an important day in retail," said ShopperTrak founder Bill Martin. "This year, though, more retailers than last year began their doorbuster deals on Thursday, Thanksgiving itself. So while foot traffic did increase on Friday, those Thursday deals attracted some of the spending that's usually meant for Friday."

The company estimated that shopper foot traffic rose the most in the Midwest, up 12.9 percent compared with last year. Traffic rose the least, 7.6 percent, in the Northeast, parts of which are still recovering from Superstorm Sandy.

ShopperTrak, which counts foot traffic and its own proprietary sales numbers from 25,000 retail outlets across the U.S., had forecast Black Friday sales would grow 3.8 percent this year, to $11.4 billion.

While consumer confidence has been improving, many people are still worried about the slow economic recovery, high unemployment and whether a gridlocked Congress can avert tax increases and government spending cuts—the so-called "fiscal cliff"—set to occur automatically in January.

And some would-be shoppers said they weren't impressed with the discounts, or that there wasn't enough inventory of the big door-busters.

"As far as deals, they weren't there," said Tammy Stempel, 48, of Gladstone, Ore. "But business have to be successful, too. I'm hoping they extend the deals through December."

She was waiting in line outside an Ikea in Portland on Saturday to buy pots and pans for her 18-year old daughter—as a hint that it was time to move out. Stemple and her husband went shopping at two Targets, Michaels and other stores Friday, but failed to find any amazing deals, even on a flat-screen TV they wanted for themselves.

Target, Best Buy and other stores near the Ikea seemed to have few customers, and traffic at the nearby Lloyd Center Mall also was light, even for a normal weekend.

Many shoppers around the country were armed with iPads and smart phones, to check prices as well as buy.

Online auction and shopping site eBay reported more the 2.5 times the number of mobile transactions as last year.

Online retailers worked as hard as brick-and-mortar stores to draw customers, sending each of their subscribers an average of 5.9 promotional emails during the 7 days through Black Friday. That's an all-time high, according to marketing software company Responsys.

IBM, which tracks more than 1 million transactions at 500 online retailers each day, said its data showed 24 percent of online shoppers used a mobile device to check out a retailer's site and about 16 percent of online purchases were made on a mobile device. But while total online spending rose sharply, the value of the average online order dipped about 5 percent to $181.22.

In spite of all the TV reports showing shoppers carting away laptops and giant flat-screen TVs, IBM said combined sales of consumer electronics, printers and other office supplies were up only 8 percent, with average order prices of $326.05.

Sales of appliances and other home goods rose the most, up about 28 percent from Black Friday last year. Clothing sales rose 17.5 percent, department store sales grew just under 17 percent and sales of health and beauty products rose 11 percent.

Despite the throngs in stores Thursday night and Friday, many shoppers held off until Saturday, hoping for shorter lines and less drama.

Black Friday … or is it Black Thursday now?

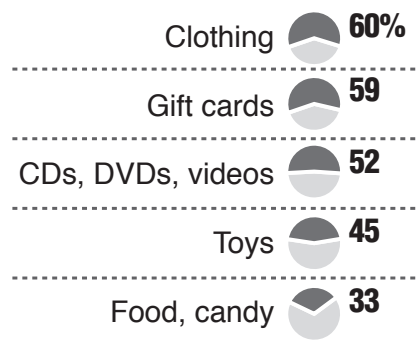
Despite protests from store clerks and shoppers, many stores will be opening earlier in the evening on Thanksgiving Day (and at least one – Kmart – will be open during the day) in an effort to profit from the traditional start of the holiday shopping season.

Where 'Black Friday' got its name

- **Term was first used** to describe a very different event, the stock market panic of 1864
- **In the 1950s,** factory managers used it to characterize the Friday after Thanksgiving when many workers called in sick
- **In the 1960s,** Philly cops borrowed the phrase to complain about crowded shops on the day after Thanksgiving
- **In the 1970s,** newspapers began describing the "official" first day of holiday shopping as Black Friday
- **In the 1980s,** merchants gave the phrase a new spin – a label for the first day their balance sheets moved from red to black
- **Since the 2000s,** Thanksgiving weekend has been the holiday season's best for shopping; last year, some stores began Black Friday sales on Thursday, opening their doors before midnight

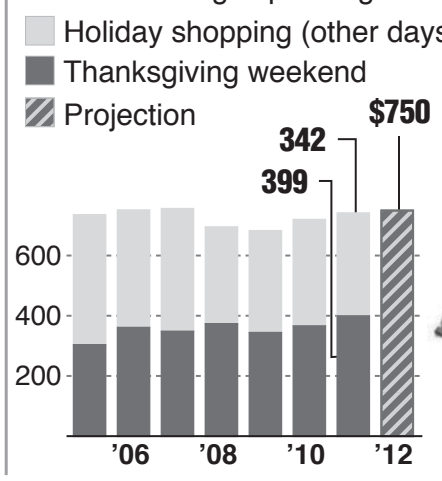
What we buy

Percentage of consumers who say they intend to buy these items this season



How much we spend

Trend in average spending



© 2012 MCT

Source: National Retail Federation, marketplace.org, Time magazine, MCT Illustration Bank
Graphic: Pat Carr

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Wal-Mart suspends India staff in corruption probe

MUMBAI, India (AP)—Wal-Mart's Indian joint venture said Friday it has suspended several employees as part of an internal corruption investigation, another blow to the U.S. company's plans for aggressive expansion in a giant market that is largely untapped by foreign retailers. Bharti Walmart, Wal-Mart's joint venture with India's Bharti Enterprises, said it had suspended "a few associates" and was "committed to conducting a complete and thorough investigation." India's Economic Times newspaper reported that the company's chief financial officer was among the five employees suspended, a claim the company declined to verify. The news comes at a sensitive time for foreign retailers in India, where corruption scandals in everything from telecommunications to coal mining have badly damaged the ruling Congress Party. Eager to rekindle foreign investment, the Congress Party eased foreign investment rules in September, paving the way for Wal-Mart and others—which had been limited to wholesaling—to run retail shops with a local partner.

Greek protesters march against mining projects

THESSALONIKI, Greece (AP)—About 3,000 protesters have marched in the northern Greek city in protest against what they claim are environment-threatening gold mining projects. Riot police barred the protesters' intended route to the Canadian Consulate on Saturday, but no incidents were reported. Canadian company Eldorado Gold Corp. is involved in four gold mining projects, all in northern Greece. Three of them are at the planning stage. The fourth, and biggest, in the Halkidiki peninsula, had been pursued a decade ago by another Canadian company, TVX, but was cancelled. Opponents of the projects include owners of houses rented to tourists, environmentalists and leftist activists opposed to any foreign investment. Local communities have been bitterly divided, with many residents hoping to benefit from the more than 1,000 jobs that the investors say would be created.

Powerball numbers drawn; jackpot was at $325M

Lottery officials say the winning Powerball jackpot numbers have been drawn, and they are 22-32-37-44-50 and Powerball 34. The estimated Powerball jackpot was at $325 million, the fourth-largest in the game's history. Lottery officials have said they're unsure what effect the start of the Christmas shopping season will have on ticket sales, which normally pick up in the days before high-dollar drawings. Recent Powerball winners include an Iowa couple that won a whopping $202 million on Sept. 26. A week later, a Delaware resident picked all six numbers for a $50 million payday. ***(AP)***

Oil prices climb on new Gaza-Israel fears

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices climbed Friday after Israeli troops fired on crowds in Gaza surging toward the border fence, killing one Palestinian.

Benchmark crude ended the trading day up 90 cents to $88.28 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Brent, which is used to price international varieties of oil, was up 83 cents to $111.38 a barrel.

Friday's killing is the first violence since a truce between Israel and the militant Hamas group was reached two days ago. Prior to the shooting, oil prices had been falling, thanks mostly to optimism over the stability in the region that the cease-fire agreement provided.

Israel launched an offensive on Nov. 14 to halt rocket fire from Gaza, unleashing some 1,500 airstrikes on Hamas-linked targets, while Hamas and other Gaza militants showered Israel with just as many rockets. The truce reached Wednesday had eased fears of a war that could broaden beyond Gaza and eventually disrupt oil supplies.

Paul Tossetti, senior director of markets and country strategies at PFC Energy, said prices were linked to the action in Gaza but that he expects this to be a temporary bump and that the cease fire would ultimately hold.

"I expect the market might back away from those concerns," he said.

Traders are also looking ahead to the next meeting of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries on Dec. 12. Tossetti said OPEC has been maintaining high levels of production but he doesn't expect anything to change at the upcoming meeting.

"It will probably be a non-event and a non-event for prices," he said.

In the U.S., motorists returning from the Thanksgiving holiday are getting the slightest bit of relief. The national average for a gallon of regular unleaded gasoline fell one-tenth of a cent to $3.43. However, that is still 10 cents higher than last Thanksgiving.

Nation

When it comes to gender gap, men play crucial role

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sorry, fellas, but President Barack Obama's re-election makes it official: Women can overrule men at the ballot box.

For the first time in research dating to 1952, a presidential candidate whom men chose decisively—Republican Mitt Romney—lost. More women voted for the other guy.

It's surprising it didn't happen sooner because women have been voting in larger numbers than men for almost three decades, exit polls show.

But men, who make up less than half the U.S. population, always have exercised power greater than their numbers and they aren't about to stop now.

When it comes to elections, males as a group are more influential because they show less party loyalty than women, who skew Democratic.

Despite all the focus on candidates courting Hispanics or the working class, men are the nation's ultimate swing voters; they're why Republican George W. Bush became president and Republican John McCain didn't.

Their move away from Obama this year expanded the voting "gender gap." It wasn't enough to determine the outcome, but came close.

So presidential hopefuls staring into the gender gap in 2016 might want to look beyond the usual controversies over "women's issues" such as abortion or the polling fads such as "Wal-Mart moms." Maybe it's time to pause and consider the fickle male. Maybe it's time to ask, "What do men want?"

In the voting booth, that is.

"I don't think we fully understand it yet," political scientist Christina Wolbrecht of the University of Notre Dame said about why men and women vote differently. But she said plenty of research on elections going back to the 1950s indicates it's not because of issues such as equal pay, birth control coverage in health plans or Romney's awkward reference to "binders full of women."

AP

This Oct. 19, 2012 file photo shows thee audience, who were mostly women, listen behind President Barack Obama as he speaks about the choice facing women in the election during a campaign event at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va.

Mass. natural gas explosion damaged 42 buildings

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP)—Preliminary investigations show more than 40 buildings were damaged in a natural gas explosion in Massachusetts that injured 18 people, building inspectors said Saturday.

A strip club was flattened and a day care center was heavily damaged in the massive blast Friday night in Springfield, one of New England's biggest cities.

Investigators were trying Saturday to figure out what caused the blast that could be heard for miles, left a large hole in the ground where the multistory brick building housing Scores Gentleman's Club once stood and scattered debris over several blocks.

Officials already had evacuated part of the entertainment district after responding to a gas leak and odor reported about an hour before the explosion. Gas workers venting a gas leak got indications that the building was about to explode and they ducked for cover behind a utility truck—along with firefighters and police officers—just before the blast, said Mark McDonald, president of the New England Gas Workers Association.

Most of the injured were in that group, and the truck that saved their lives was essentially demolished, he said.

"It really is a miracle and it's an example of our public safety officials, each and every day, putting themselves in harm's way, taking what could have been considered a very routine call of an odor of gas, but they took the proper precautions," State Fire Marshal Stephen Coan said. "And thanks to God that they did."

9 more Iraq, Afghan war veterans joining Congress

WASHINGTON (AP)—As Tammy Duckworth sees it, her path to Congress began when she awoke in the fall of 2004 at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. She was missing both of her legs and faced the prospect of losing her right arm.

Months of agonizing therapy lay ahead. As the highest-ranking double amputee in the ward, Maj. Duckworth became the go-to person for soldiers complaining of substandard care and bureaucratic ambivalence.

Soon, she was pleading their cases to federal lawmakers, including her state's two U.S. senators at the time—Democrats Dick Durbin and Barack Obama of Illinois. Obama arranged for her to testify at congressional hearings. Durbin encouraged her to run for office.

She lost her first election, but six years later gave it another try and now is one of nine veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars who will serve in next year's freshman class in the of House of Representatives.

Veterans' groups say the influx of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans is welcome because it comes at a time when the overall number of veterans in Congress is on a steep and steady decline. In the mid-1970s, the vast majority of lawmakers tended to be veterans.

For example, the 95th Congress, which served in 1977-78, had more than 400 veterans among its 535 members, according to the American Legion. The number of veterans next year in Congress will come to just more than 100. Most served during the Vietnam War era. In all, 16 served in Iraq or Afghanistan, not all in a combat role.

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(3) Cook
Qualifications: High School diploma or equivalent. We are looking for an enthusiastic, creative and fully qualified cook who is passionate about food. Must have 3 years prior experience preferably in a hotel. Must have the ability to work in a flexible way that allows for changes in assignments and priorities depending upon identified needs of the unit. Ability to relate to individuals from diverse ethnic, cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds and to work with them in a fair, supportive and cooperative manner.

(1) Guest Relations Agent – China Market
Qualifications: High School diploma or equivalent. Must have 2 years prior experience in this field preferably in a hotel. Is responsive and genuine with guests and colleagues and confident with guest interactions. Able to read and write English and Mandarin Chinese. Can communicate alternative and positive solutions to problems and is adaptable and suitable to change. Excellent interpersonal and customer service skills are essential. Must be willing to work a flexible schedule including holidays, week-ends and nights.

Applications may be obtained and submitted at our security guard office located on the South Wing. All applications must be submitted by the closing date November 30, 2012.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB13-CHC-037

Submission/Opening Date: December 19, 2012 Time: 10:00 a.m.

"Lease of a Class "E" Vehicle (Four-Door Sedan) for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation – Immunization Program"

Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

This is a federally funded project; as such, **local preference is not available** because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfections in the best interest of the Commonwealth.

/s/ Juan N. Babauta, CEO – Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.
/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director, P&S
/s/ Roxanne Diaz, Public Health Services Director

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB13-CHC-038

Submission/Opening Date: December 19, 2012 Time: 10:00 a.m.

"Lease of a Class "E" Vehicle (Four-Door Sedan) for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation – immunization Program-Tinian"

Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

This is a federally funded project; as such, **local preference is not avaiable** because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfections in the best interest of the Commonwealth.

/s/ Juan N. Babauta, CEO – Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.
/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director, P&S
/s/ Roxanne Diaz, Public Health Services Director

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB13-CHC-039

Submission/Opening Date: December 19, 2012 Time: 10:00 a.m.

"Lease of a Class "E" Vehicle (Four-Door Sedan) for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation – immunization Program-Rota"

Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

This is a federally funded project; as such, **local preference is not avaiable** because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfections in the best interest of the Commonwealth.

/s/ Juan N. Babauta, CEO – Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.
/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director, P&S
/s/ Roxanne Diaz, Public Health Services Director

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Logistics Manager

Graduate of 4-year degree course and with at least 6 years management experience in the logistics business with emphasis on airfreight, ocean freight forwarding, warehousing and fuel hauling operations. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation, Environmental and Occupational Safety Hazards is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, Emergency Response, IICL (Container and Chassis), Petroleum Standard Operating Procedure and Vehicle Safety Guidelines.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should submit resume to CTSI Logistics, lower base not later than December 7, 2012, Friday.

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB13-CHC-036 (A-D)

Submission/Opening Date: December 18, 2012 Time: 10:30 a.m.

"Purchase of Ten (10) Desktop Computers, Two (2) Laptop Computers, Ten (10) Printers and Two (2) Scanners for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation – immunization program"

Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

This is a federally funded project; as such, local preference is not avaiable because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfections in the best interest of the Commonwealth.

/s/ Juan N. Babauta, CEO – Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.
/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director, P&S
/s/ Roxanne Diaz, Public Health Services Director

Asia

Diplomat says Manila must stand ground in dispute

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines' top diplomat has told the country's future military leaders that they must stand their ground in any territorial disputes with China.

The comments from Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario, which were released Saturday, come as disputes over the South China Sea have escalated recently. China has enraged several neighbors with a map printed in its newly revised passports that show it staking its claim on the entire South China Sea.

A statement published Saturday on the foreign ministry's website quoted del Rosario as telling Philippine Military Academy cadets: "What is ours is ours and we should stand up to protect what is ours."

It said del Rosario gave the lecture Friday on the challenges the country faces in defending its claims to areas in the South China Sea.

The academy supplies the officer corps of the armed forces.

The Philippines, a close ally of the United States, has poorly equipped forces that are no match to China's military. A 45-year-old U.S. Coast Guard cutter acquired last year has become the navy's flagship.

The Philippines claims some areas in the Spratly Island chain to which China has staked ancient ownership. The countries also claim the Scarborough Shoal west of the main Philippine island of Luzon where Chinese and Filipino ships were locked in a tense standoff early this year after the Philippine navy accosted Chinese fishermen there.

In the latest incident, the Philippines, Vietnam and Taiwan have criticized China for putting a map in its new passports that show all of the disputed areas as belonging to China.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said Friday the passport's design was not directed at any particular country.

The United States has said it takes no sides in the territorial disputes but that it considers ensuring safe maritime traffic in the waters to be in its national interest.

AP

A Chinese man holds up a Chinese passport with details on a page that shows dashes which include the South China Sea as part of the Chinese territory outside a passport office in Beijing, China, Friday, Nov. 23, 2012.

India says China's new passport maps unacceptable

NEW DELHI (AP)—India has responded to China's newly revised passports that show disputed territory near their shared border as part of China by issuing Chinese citizens visas embossed with New Delhi's own maps.

External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid said Saturday that the Chinese passport map showing India's Arunachal Pradesh state and the Himalayan region of Aksai Chin as part of China is "unacceptable."

India retaliated by starting to issue visas to Chinese citizens with a map of India that includes all territories claimed by New Delhi.

The new Chinese passports have also upset the Philippines and Vietnam because they show disputed parts of the South China Sea as belonging to China.

In New Delhi, China is viewed with suspicion as a longtime ally and weapons supplier to Pakistan, India's bitter rival. For Beijing, the presence in India of the Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, and 120,000 other exiles from Tibet remains a source of tension.

India says China controls 41,440 square kilometers (16,000 square miles) of its territory in Aksai Chin in Kashmir, while Beijing claims that the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, which shares a 1,050-kilometer (650-mile) border with the Chinese-run region of Tibet, is rightfully Chinese territory.

ASIAN BRIEFS

112 dead in fire at Bangladesh garment factory

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—At least 112 people were killed in a fire that raced through a multi-story garment factory just outside of Bangladesh's capital, an official said Sunday. The blaze broke out at the seven-story factory operated by Tazreen Fashions late Saturday. By Sunday morning, firefighters had recovered 100 bodies, fire department Operations Director Maj. Mohammad Mahbub told The Associated Press. He said another 12 people who had suffered injuries after jumping from the building to escape the fire later died at hospitals. The death toll could rise as the search for victims was continuing, he said.

18 Chinese miners die in coal-gas explosion

BEIJING (AP)—A coal mine accident in China's southwest killed 18 workers and trapped five more on Saturday, the official Xinhua News Agency said. There were 28 workers working in the state-owned Xiangshui coalmine in Guizhou province when the coal-and-gas explosion happened about 11 a.m., and five of those were rescued, Xinhua said. No other details were immediately available. China has the world's deadliest coal mine industry, with 1,973 miners killed in accidents last year. Safety improvements have reduced deaths in recent years, but regulations are often ignored and accidents are still common.

China lands first jet on its aircraft carrier

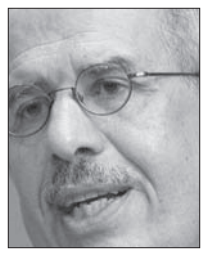
BEIJING (AP)—China has successfully landed a fighter jet on its first aircraft carrier, which entered service two months ago, the country's official news agency confirmed Sunday. The Liaoning aircraft carrier underscores China's ambitions to be a leading Asian naval power, but it is not expected to carry a full complement of planes or be ready for combat for some time. Xinhua News Agency said the landing exercise marked the debut of the J-15 fighter jet, a carrier-based fighter-bomber developed by China from Russia's Sukhoi Su-33. The Defense Ministry's website carried photos of the jet taking off from and landing on the carrier. Citing unnamed naval sources, Xinhua said that the carrier platform and J-15 capabilities met all requirements and achieved "good compatibility." Xinhua says the J-15 is able to carry anti-ship, air-to-air and air-to-ground missiles and precision-guided bombs.

World

Egypt reformist warns of turmoil from Morsi decree

CAIRO (AP)—Prominent Egyptian democracy advocate Mohammed ElBaradei warned Saturday of increasing turmoil that could potentially lead to the military stepping in unless the Islamist president rescinds his new, near absolute powers, as the country's long fragmented opposition sought to unite and rally new protests.

Egypt's liberal and secular forces—long divided, weakened and uncertain amid the rise of Islamist parties to power—are seeking to rally themselves in response to the decrees issued this week by President Mohammed Morsi. The president granted himself sweeping powers to "protect the revolution" and made himself immune to judicial oversight.



ElBaradei

The judiciary, which was the main target of Morsi's edicts, pushed back Saturday. The country's highest body of judges, the Supreme Judical Council, called his decrees an "unprecedented assault." Courts in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria announced a work suspension until the decrees are lifted.

Outside the high court building in Cairo, several hundred demonstrators rallied against Morsi, chanting, "Leave! Leave!" echoing the slogan used against former leader Hosni Mubarak in last year's uprising that ousted him. Police fired tear gas to disperse a crowd of young men who were shooting flares outside the court.

The edicts issued Wednesday have galvanized anger brewing against Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood, from which he hails, ever since he took office in June as Egypt's first freely elected president. Critics accuse the Brotherhood—which has dominated elections the past year—and other Islamists of monopolizing power and doing little to bring real reform or address Egypt's mounting economic and security woes.

Oppositon groups have called for new nationwide rallies Tuesday—and the Muslim Brotherhood has called for rallies supporting Morsi the same day, setting the stage for new violence. Morsi supporters counter that the edicts were necessary to prevent the courts, which already dissolved the elected lower house of parliament, from further holding up moves to stability by disbanding the assembly writing the new constitution, as judges were considering doing. Like parliament was, the assembly is dominated by Islamists. Morsi accuses Mubarak loyalists in the judiciary of seeking to thwart the revolution's goals and barred the judiciary from disbanding the constitutional assembly or parliament's upper house.

In an interview with a handful of journalists, including The Associated Press, Nobel Peace laureate ElBaradei raised alarm over the impact of Morsi's rulings, saying he had become "a new pharaoh."

"There is a good deal of anger, chaos, confusion. Violence is spreading to many places and state authority is starting to erode slowly," he said. "We hope that we can manage to do a smooth transition without plunging the country into a cycle of violence. But I don't see this happening without Mr. Morsi rescinding all of this."

Speaking of Egypt's powerful military, ElBaradei said, "I am sure they are as worried as everyone else. You cannot exclude that the army will intervene to restore law and order" if the situation gets out of hand.

But anti-Morsi factions are chronically divided, with revolutionary youth activists, new liberal political parties that have struggled to build a public base and figures from the Mubarak era, all of whom distrust each other. The judiciary is also an uncomfortable cause for some to back, since it includes many Mubarak appointees who even Morsi opponents criticize as too tied to the old regime.

Opponents say the edicts gave Morsi near dictatorial powers, neutering the judiciary when he already holds both executive and legislative powers. One of his most controversial edicts gave him the right to take any steps to stop "threats to the revolution," vague wording that activists say harkens back to Mubarak-era emergency laws.

Tens of thousands of people took to the streets in nationwide protests on Friday, sparking clashes between anti-and pro-Morsi crowds in several cities that left more than 200 people wounded.

WORLD BRIEFS

Arafat's remains said to be exhumed Tuesday

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)—The remains of former Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat will be exhumed Tuesday as part of a renewed investigation into his death, a Palestinian investigator said Saturday. Arafat died in November 2004 in a French military hospital, a month after suddenly falling ill. Palestinian officials claim he was poisoned by Israel, but have not presented evidence. Israel has denied such allegations. Earlier this year, the detection of a lethal radioactive substance in biological traces on Arafat's clothing sparked a new investigation. Tests were inconclusive, and experts said they need to check his remains to learn more.

Leaders call for end to Congo rebel advance

SAKE, Congo (AP)—Regional leaders meeting in Uganda on Saturday called for an end to the advance by M23 rebels toward Congo's capital, and also urged the Congolese government to sit down with rebel leaders as residents fled some towns for fear of more fighting between the rebels and army. The leaders called on M23 rebels to vacate the city of Goma within two days and for local police recently disarmed by the rebels "to be rearmed so that they resume duty," according to a statement issued by the regional bloc called the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. M23 is made up of hundreds of officers who deserted the Congolese army in April. Since then the rebels have occupied vast swaths of territory in mineral-rich eastern Congo.

Pope elevates 6 cardinals to choose successor

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI responded to criticism that the club of churchmen who will choose his successor is too Eurocentric, elevating six new cardinals from Colombia, India, Lebanon, Nigeria, the Philippines and the U.S. during a formal ceremony Saturday. Benedict welcomed the prelates into the College of Cardinals during a short, hour-long ceremony in St. Peter's Basilica, telling them that their presence among the other red-robed prelates was a sign of the "unique, universal and all-inclusive identity" of the Catholic Church. "In this consistory, I want to highlight in particular the fact that the church is the church of all peoples, and so she speaks in the various cultures of the different continents," he told the crowd.

Focus

AP

U.S. President Barack Obama, left, meets with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao , right, during the East Asia Summit at the Peace Palace in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2012.

How Asia sees Obama's pivot to the Pacific

TOKYO (AP)—A lot has happened in Asia while the United States was off fighting its wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and most of it can be summed up in one word—China. Fueled by China's amazing growth and the promise of its huge and expanding consumer market, the Asia-Pacific region is now, as experts like to say, the global economy's center of gravity. Sorry, Europe.

But prosperity requires stability.

As President Barack Obama tours the region to push his year-old pivot to the Pacific policy, the big question on everybody's mind is how much of a role Washington, with its mighty military and immense diplomatic clout, can play in keeping the Pacific - well, pacific. Here's a look at how different countries perceive the U.S. Pacific policy and how it impacts them:

■■■

CHINA: HOW NOT TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON

As far as Beijing is concerned, Obama's pivot was pulled right out of the old Cold War containment playbook. Afraid of China's rise, Beijing believes, Washington is trying to enflame new tensions by isolating it and emboldening the countries that China has territorial disputes with, which is just about everybody with whom it shares a border.

"Using China's rise and the `China threat' theory, the U.S. wants to convince China's neighbors that the Asia-Pacific needs Washington's presence and protection in order to `unite' them to strike a `strategic rebalance' against China in the region," security scholar Wang Yusheng wrote recently in the China Daily.

It's a strategy that's bound to lose, Beijing says.

China sees its rise as inevitable and unstoppable and believes its neighbors will ultimately opt for stronger ties while gradually excluding the U.S. Beijing also views its economic dominance as an unalloyed good. And as it tests out its first aircraft carrier, stealth jets, cyber capabilities and high-tech missiles, it is in an increasingly strong position to deny Washington access to its shores and some key Pacific sea lanes, which could be a problem if Obama's pivot ever has to go from push to shove.

■■■

JAPAN: ALREADY FEELING THE PINCH

Without a doubt, Japan is Washington's most faithful security partner in the Pacific. And it's the most pinched by China's rise.

For months, Japan and China have been in an increasingly tense dispute over a group of small, uninhabited islands in the East China Sea. The near-constant presence of Chinese ships around them has stretched the Japanese Coast Guard to its limits. Japan's air force says Chinese surveillance flights in the area have increased significantly.

Wary of getting caught up in the volatile brew of nationalism, historical animosity and populist politics that is fueling the flare-up, the U.S. has been careful not to take sides. Instead, it has urged the two countries to work out their problems among themselves, diplomatically.

That has confounded many in Japan, which hosts 52,000 U.S. troops under a treaty signed in 1960 that obliges the U.S. to defend territories under Japanese administration. Washington has repeatedly affirmed that includes the isles at the center of the current tensions with China. Tokyo would have preferred at least some moral support to its claim.

"It's strange," said Kazuhiko Togo, a former senior diplomat who now heads the Institute for World Affairs at Kyoto Sangyo University. "I trust the U.S. as our ally, but we need to address this issue of U.S. `neutrality.'"

■■■

MEANWHILE, IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA...

Washington took a similarly standoffish stance early this year in the dispute between China, Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Taiwan over the South China Sea islands, believed to be rich in gas and oil and straddling busy shipping routes.

The Philippines—America's closest ally in that dispute—eventually pulled its ships out of the hotly contested Scarborough Shoal, but Chinese vessels have remained.

Manila-based political analyst Ramon Casiple said the disputes have left America's allies more aware of their own vulnerabilities and what they can—or can't—expect from the U.S.

"America's treading a very fine line," Casiple said. "It has to reassure its allies that at the end of the day the U.S. would be there for them." He added that the U.S. has made it clear it is not willing to risk a major confrontation in which its options would be limited "to either intervene or lose influence."

There is, however, one other thing it might do in the meantime.

When U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta visited Vietnam in June, he hinted the Navy would like access to Cam Ranh, a deep water port facing the contested waters of the South China Sea. Hanoi's counter-proposal?

Lift a ban on selling it lethal weapons.

■■■

TAIWAN: LEFT OUT IN THE COLD

Best friends forever? Not so much.

As China has gotten stronger and more important to the U.S. economy, Washington has become extremely wary of engaging Taiwan as a full security partner—a big pullback from the 1950s and the 1960s, when the two had a formal defense treaty and the U.S. based thousands of troops on what it considered a—if not the—key forward base to keep China at bay.

Today, cooperation is limited to some intelligence sharing, the training of Taiwanese air force personnel in the U.S., occasional security consultations and very restricted arms sales—definitely not the kind of advanced F-16 fighters and diesel submarines the Taiwanese military really wants.

Even so, political scientist Alexander Huang of Taipei's Tamkang University says Taiwan can play a role in Obama's pivot—but only if Washington decides to make a clear commitment.

■■■

THE KOREAS: STEALTH OVER SEOUL?

Ah, North Korea.

It's got a new leader, about whom, typically, the world knows almost nothing, a nuclear weapons/ballistic missile program that it likes to trot out every so often to raise regional tensions and a belligerent attitude toward the U.S.

But Obama has a friend in Seoul.

Back in the 1950s, the U.S. fought on Seoul's side in the Korean War—and contemplated nuking China before it was over. China still supports the North, and Washington continues to have about 28,500 troops in the South. South Korea also buys about 70 percent of its weapons from the United States, and a big payday for an American company might come soon after Obama's inauguration, when South Korea is expected to formally announce the winner in a $7.6 billion project to build 60 sophisticated fighter jets.

The deal will be South Korea's biggest-ever weapons procurement. The top contender is believed to be Lockheed Martin's stealthy F-35 Joint Strike Fighter - which after a long run of development problems and cost overruns could certainly use a multi-billion dollar boost. Boeing and European aerospace giant EADS are also in the running.

■■■

AUSTRALIA: LIVING WITH THE US MARINES

Australia got one of the first waves from the pivot when the U.S. announced last year it would begin rotating up to 2,500 U.S. Marines through the northern city of Darwin. Now the U.S. is seeking access to an Australian navy base south of the western city of Perth and to bombing ranges in the northern Outback.

Some experts fear the relationship may be moving too fast.

On one hand there is broad support for Australia's defense relationship with the U.S., so having American Marines was seen as a natural step. But it has also raised concerns that Washington will push for more - something Australia might not be ready for. After all China is central to Australia's economy, buying a bulk of its mineral and coal resources.

"What worries us is the way in which it seems to confirm that the United States and China are increasingly viewing each other as strategic rivals," said Hugh White, professor of strategic studies at Australian National University.

"We worry about the idea of the U.S.-China relationship becoming more adversarial," he said. "America wants to remain the dominant power in Asia, and China wants to become the dominant power in Asia.

"What the rest of us all want is for neither of them to be the dominant power in Asia."

Health & Fitness

Study: Pregnant teens need better school support

By KELLI KENNEDY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI (AP)—When 15-year-old Kali Gonzalez became pregnant, the honors student considered transferring to an alternative school. She worried teachers would harass her for missing class because of doctor's appointments and morning sickness.

A guidance counselor urged Gonzalez not to, saying that could lower her standards.

Instead, her counselor set up a meeting with teachers at her St. Augustine high school to confirm she could make up missed assignments, eat in class and use the restroom whenever she needed. Gonzalez, who is now 18, kept an A-average while pregnant. She capitalized on an online school program for parenting students so she could stay home and take care of her baby during her junior year. She returned to school her senior year and graduated with honors in May.

But Gonzalez is a rare example of success among pregnant students. Schools across the country are divided over how to handle them, with some schools kicking them out or penalizing students for pregnancy-related absences. And many schools say they can't afford costly support programs, including tutoring, child care and transportation for teens who may live just a few miles from school but still too far to walk while pregnant or with a small child.

Nearly 400,000 girls and young women between 15 and 19 years old gave birth in 2010, a rate of 34 per 1,000, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Those statistics have led child advocates to push for greater adherence to a1972 law that bans sex discrimination in federally funded education programs and activities, according to a new report by the National Women's Law Center.

Fatima Goss Graves, the center's vice president of education and employment, says offering pregnant teens extra support would ultimately save taxpayers money by helping them become financially independent and not dependent on welfare.

But budget cuts have eaten into such efforts.

California lawmakers slashed a successful program for such students in 2008, ruling it was no longer mandatory, and allowed school districts to use the money for other programs.

More than 100,000 pregnant and parenting students have participated in the program that helps them with classwork and connects them with social services. It boasted a 73 percent graduation rate in 2010—close to the state's normal rate—and advocates said participants were less reliant on welfare and less likely to become pregnant again. That compares to several counties where only 30 percent of pregnant and parenting teens graduated.

AP

In this Monday, Sept. 10, 2012 photo, Kali Gonzalez reads to her daughter Kiah, 2, at their home in St. Augustine, Fla.

"It's unfortunate that this effective program fell prey to the enormous budget challenges we are facing as a state," said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson.

Three years ago in Wisconsin, cost-cutting lawmakers dropped a requirement for school districts to give pregnant students who live within two miles of a school building free rides to school. The requirement had been part of an effort to improve access to education and reduce infant mortality rates.

Less than half of the states have programs that send home assignments to homebound or hospitalized student parents, according to the study.

In almost half of the states, including Idaho, Nevada, Nebraska, South Dakota and Utah, the definition of excused absences is not broad enough to include pregnant and parenting students. That typically results in a patchwork of policies where some school districts don't excuse absences even if the student is in the hospital giving birth, according to the study.

But a few states have developed programs to help improve graduate rates among pregnant girls and young mothers.

In Washington, D.C., caseworkers in the New Heights Teen Parent Program often stand by the school entrance or text pregnant students and young moms to make sure they are attending classes.

When students do miss school, caseworkers take them homework assignments. About 600 students participate in the program which also helps students with housing, child care and parenting skills. But the $1.6 million federal grant funding the program runs out next year and officials said they don't have a clear future funding source.

Roughly 4,500 male and female student parents participated in a Pennsylvania program last year where case workers helped them balance school and child care. Nearly 1,300 graduated or received an equivalent, state officials said. The ELECT program, which started in 1990 as a partnership between state child welfare and education officials, monitors students' attendance, coordinates summer programs and links them with support systems in the community.

Florida allows pregnant and parenting students to receive homebound instruction and lays out a clear process to make up missed work. The state also gives those students the option of taking online classes.

In St. Johns County, where Gonzalez lives, the school district provides free day care for teen moms and bus transportation for students and their children.

Pregnant students are often stereotyped as low-achievers, but advocates say pregnancy actually motivates some to do better in school.

Gonzalez, whose daughter is now 2, said her grades improved after she became pregnant.

"I did push myself a lot harder and I made sure that I wasn't going to be that statistic," said Gonzalez, who is now married and pursuing a nursing degree.

Personal Trainer
Getting high-quality sleep
Sleep is best for your health when it is deep and uninterrupted; these are some simple steps that can improve the quality of your sleep.
Comfort
Shades to make room dark enough; ear plugs or sound machine to make it quiet enough
Regular routine
Reading or taking a bath at bedtime becomes a cue for body to relax
No work
Make the bedroom a place for pleasant rest, not stressful paperwork or paying bills
Alcohol use
It's an effective sedative – but interferes with deep sleep
Regular hours
Erratic schedule makes it hard to fall asleep and awaken
6:30
Oversleeping
Sleep becomes shallow and disrupted if you spend extra hours in bed
Caffeine late in day
It stays in bloodstream for six to eight hours, disrupting sleep
Regular exercise
Evening exercise helps some people relax and slow down
Source: World Book
Graphic: Paul Trap
© 2012 MCT

German lab: Qatar man suffered from new virus

BERLIN (AP)—A patient from Qatar has been confirmed with a new virus related to SARS, while health officials are investigating whether it may have spread between humans after close contact in Saudi Arabia.

Germany's Robert Koch Institute said Friday that the Qatari patient fell ill in October with severe respiratory problems. He was brought to Germany for treatment in a specialty clinic, recovered after a month and was released this week.

As a precaution, the World Health Organization advised medical authorities around the world to test any patients with unexplained pneumonias for the new coronavirus, from a family of viruses that cause the common cold as well as SARS. Previously, WHO had only advised testing patients who had been to either Qatar or Saudi Arabia—the two countries with all six reported cases.

"Until more information is available, it is prudent to consider that the virus is likely more widely distributed than just the two countries which have identified cases," WHO said.

WHO reported a cluster of four cases in October in a family living in the same household in Saudi Arabia, in which a father and son both fell ill with symptoms including pneumonia, fever and respiratory problems. The father, 70, died after developing renal failure. His son was hospitalized shortly afterwards and died four days later after multi-organ failure. The son was confirmed with the coronavirus while the father's results are pending.

Two other people in the same family got sick but both recovered. One was confirmed with the coronavirus while the other tested negative.

Health officials always keep a close eye on any clusters of unusual viruses within families, since they may suggest the possibility of human-to-human spread. Still, that is usually due to close contact in which family members are looking after sick loved ones and does not suggest the virus can be easily transmitted.

Experts aren't sure how the virus is spreading but suspect it may be jumping directly to humans from animals like bats, camels or goats. In the latest case from Qatar, however, the patient had no known links to animals.

Life & Style

‘Dallas’ star Larry Hagman dies in Texas

LOS ANGELES (AP)—J.R. Ewing was a business cheat, faithless husband and bottomless well of corruption. Yet with his sparkling grin, Larry Hagman masterfully created the charmingly loathsome oil baron—and coaxed forth a Texas-size gusher of ratings—on television’s long-running and hugely successful nighttime soap, “Dallas.”

Although he first gained fame as nice guy Air Force Major Tony Nelson on the fluffy 1965-70 NBC comedy “I Dream of Jeannie,” Hagman earned his greatest stardom with J.R. The CBS serial drama about the Ewing family and those in their orbit aired from April 1978 to May 1991, and broke viewing records with its “Who shot J.R.?” 1980 cliffhanger that left unclear if Hagman’s character was dead.

The actor, who returned as J.R. in a new edition of “Dallas” this year, had a long history of health problems and died Friday due to complications from his battle with cancer, his family said.

“Larry was back in his beloved hometown of Dallas, reenacting the iconic role he loved the most. Larry’s family and closest friends had joined him in Dallas for the Thanksgiving holiday,” the family said in a statement that was provided to The Associated Press by Warner Bros., producer of the show.

The 81-year-old actor was surrounded by friends and family before he passed peacefully, “just as he’d wished for,” the statement said.

Linda Gray, his on-screen wife and later ex-wife in the original series and the sequel, was among those with Hagman in his final moments in a Dallas hospital, said her publicist, Jeffrey Lane.

“He brought joy to everyone he knew. He was creative, generous, funny, loving and talented, and I will miss him enormously. He was an original and lived life to the fullest,” the actress said.

Years before “Dallas,” Hagman had gained TV fame on “I Dream of Jeannie,” in which he played an astronaut whose life is disrupted when he finds a comely genie, portrayed by Barbara Eden, and takes her home to live with him.

Eden recalled late Friday shooting the series’ pilot “in the frigid cold” on a Malibu beach.

“From that day, for five more years, Larry was the center of so many fun, wild and sometimes crazy times. And in retrospect, memorable moments that will remain in my heart forever,” Eden said.

Hagman also starred in two short-lived sitcoms, “The Good Life” (NBC, 1971-72) and “Here We Go Again” (ABC, 1973). His film work included well-regarded performances in “The Group,” ‘’Harry and Tonto” and “Primary Colors.”

But it was Hagman’s masterful portrayal of J.R. that brought him the most fame. And the “Who shot J.R.?” story twist fueled international speculation and millions of dollars in betting-parlor wagers. It also helped give the series a place in ratings history.

When the answer was revealed in a November 1980 episode, an average 41 million U.S. viewers tuned in to make “Dallas” one of the most-watched entertainment shows of all time, trailing only the “MASH” finale in 1983 with 50 million viewers.

It was J.R.’s sister-in-law, Kristin (Mary Crosby) who plugged him—he had made her pregnant, then threatened to frame her as a prostitute unless she left town—but others had equal motivation.

Hagman played Ewing as a bottomless well of corruption with a charming grin: a business cheat and a faithless husband who tried to get his alcoholic wife, Sue Ellen (Gray), institutionalized.

“I know what I want on J.R.’s tombstone,” Hagman said in 1988. “It should say: ‘Here lies upright citizen J.R. Ewing. This is the only deal he ever lost.’”

AP

This 1981 file photo provided by CBS shows Larry Hagman in character as J.R. Ewing in the television series “Dallas.”

On Friday night, Victoria Principal, who co-starred in the original series, recalled Hagman as “bigger than life, on-screen and off. He is unforgettable, and irreplaceable, to millions of fans around the world, and in the hearts of each of us, who was lucky enough to know and love him.”

Ten episodes of the new edition of “Dallas” aired this past summer and proved a hit for TNT. Filming was in progress on the sixth episode of season two, which is set to begin airing Jan. 28, the network said.

There was no immediate comment from Warner or TNT on how the series would deal with Hagman’s loss.

In 2006, he did a guest shot on FX’s drama series “Nip/Tuck,” playing a macho business mogul. He also got new exposure in recent years with the DVD releases of “I Dream of Jeannie” and “Dallas.”

Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings said Saturday morning in a statement that Hagman’s role as J.R. helped the city gain “worldwide recognition.”

“Larry is a North Texas jewel that was larger than life and he will be missed by many in Dallas and around the world,” Rawlings said.

The Fort Worth, Texas, native was the son of singer-actress Mary Martin, who starred in such classics as “South Pacific” and “Peter Pan.” Martin was still in her teens when he was born in 1931 during her marriage to attorney Ben Hagman.

As a youngster, Hagman gained a reputation for mischief-making as he was bumped from one private school to another. He made a stab at New York theater in the early 1950s, then served in the Air Force from 1952-56 in England.

While there, he met and married young Swedish designer Maj Axelsson. The couple had two children, Preston and Heidi, and were longtime residents of the Malibu beach colony that is home to many celebrities.

Hagman returned to acting and found work in the theater and in such TV series as “The U.S. Steel Hour,” ‘’The Defenders” and “Sea Hunt.” His first continuing role was as lawyer Ed Gibson on the daytime serial “The Edge of Night” (1961-63).

He called his 2001 memoir “Hello Darlin’: Tall (and Absolutely True) Tales about My Life.”

“I didn’t put anything in that I thought was going to hurt someone or compromise them in any way,” he told The Associated Press at the time.

Hagman was diagnosed in 1992 with cirrhosis of the liver and acknowledged that he had drank heavily for years. In 1995, a malignant tumor was discovered on his liver and he underwent a transplant.

After his transplant, he became an advocate for organ donation and volunteered at a hospital to help frightened patients.

“I counsel, encourage, meet them when they come in for their operations, and after,” he said in 1996. “I try to offer some solace, like ‘Don’t be afraid, it will be a little uncomfortable for a brief time, but you’ll be OK.’ “

He also was an anti-smoking activist who took part in “Great American Smoke-Out” campaigns.

Funeral plans had not been announced as of Saturday morning.

“I can honestly say that we’ve lost not just a great actor, not just a television icon, but an element of pure Americana,” Eden said in her statement Friday night. “Goodbye, Larry. There was no one like you before and there will never be anyone like you again.”

Larry Hagman as J.R.: A TV villain for all ages

By FRAZIER MOORE
AP TELEVISION

NEW YORK (AP)—One reason “Dallas” became a cultural phenomenon like none other is that Larry Hagman never took its magnitude for granted.

During an interview last June, he spoke of returning to Dallas and the real-life Southfork Ranch some months earlier to resume his role of J.R. Ewing for the TNT cable network’s revival of the series. There at Southfork, now a major tourist attraction, he came upon a wall-size family tree diagramming the entanglement of “Dallas” characters.

“I looked at it and said ‘I didn’t know I was related to HER!’” Hagman marveled. “And I didn’t know THAT!”

In its own way, the original “Dallas”—which aired on CBS from 1978 to 1991—was unfathomably bigger than anything on TV before or since, while J.R. Ewing remains unrivaled not just as a video villain but as a towering mythical figure.

All this is largely thanks to Hagman and his epic portrayal of J.R., a Texas oilman and patriarch who, in Hagman’s hands, was in equal measures loathsome and lovable.

Hagman, who died Friday at 81, certainly had nothing more to prove a quarter-century ago when “Dallas” ended after 14 seasons.

But in the series revival, whose first season aired this summer, J.R. was even more evil and deliciously conniving than ever. Though visibly frail, Hagman knew how to leverage J.R.’s vulnerabilities as a new form of strength to wield against his rivals. Hagman knew how to double-down on J.R. as a force the audience could hiss and cheer with equal delight.

Of course, in his long career, Hagman did more than star in “Dallas” and tackled more roles than J.R. Ewing. Had “Dallas” never come along with its operatic sprawl of power, corruption and family feuds, Hagman would likely be remembered for an earlier series, “I Dream of Jeannie,” the 1960s comedy series about an astronaut and the genie who loved him.

Even so, during Hagman’s five seasons co-starring with Barbara Eden as the sexy genie-in-a-bottle, he was inevitably upstaged.

That would never be a problem on “Dallas,” especially after the final hour of the series’ second season, when J.R. was gunned down by an unknown assailant and left for dead on his office floor.

All that summer and late into the fall, the nation was seized and teased by the mystery of Who Shot J.R.? Nearly every fellow character had sufficient motive to want J.R. killed, and which of them had done the deed was a question everyone was asking. Finally, the answer was delivered on the episode that aired 32 years ago almost to the day—on Nov. 21, 1980—when the shooter was revealed to be J.R.’s scheming sister-in-law and mistress, Kristin.

And oh, by the way, J.R. survived.

As J.R., Hagman could marshal piercing glances with his hawk-like eyes, and chill any onlooker with his wicked grin. There was no depth to which J.R. couldn’t sink, especially with the outrageous story lines the series blessed him with.

But his popularity exceeded that for even a notable bad guy. This, too, is a credit to Hagman’s portrayal. By all indications, the glorious rascalness that made J.R. such fun to watch was lifted intact from Hagman’s own lively personality.

During last June’s lunch interview with Hagman and Linda Gray (J.R.’s long-suffering onetime wife, Sue Ellen), Gray recalled the day the “Dallas” cast first met.

“He walks in, this man with a cowboy hat,” said Gray, “and I thought, ‘What’s this?’ To me, he was still the astronaut from ‘I Dream of Jeannie.’ Then he looked at me and he went, ‘Hello, darlin’.’ And that was it: I thought, Oh, darn, this is gonna be fun.”

“She THREW herself at me!” Hagman broke in. “She’d had a couple of glasses of champagne already, and she put her arms around me and said, ‘I’m your WIFE!’”

“Where do you come up with these stories?” Gray, laughing, fired back at the man she would describe at his passing months later as “my best friend for 35 years.”

What made J.R. irresistible, and always forgivable, was his high-spiritedness, his love of the game. Despite the legendary fortune of the Ewings, J.R. didn’t flaunt his wealth. (Southfork was comfortable all right, but not ostentatious. If you wanted to see a prime-time soap whose characters threw their money around, you switched over to ABC and watched “Dynasty.”) J.R. savored power, not things. He loved doing to others before they did it to him, and he usually succeeded.

Operating with such diabolical zest, J.R. appalled viewers, yet they always rooted for him. And relied on him to prevail. Back in 1980, they played an obsessive guessing game of Who Shot J.R.? But no one for a moment imagined he would die.

This makes Hagman’s passing difficult for fans to comprehend. And it raises an obvious question: During the new season of TNT’s “Dallas,” which begins Jan. 28, will J.R. have to die?

On some level, his fate seems unavoidable. But for viewers who have hate-loved J.R. for decades, there’s a different answer: Thanks to Larry Hagman, J.R. is forever.

After 'Psycho,' a shower of violence in movies

AP

In this 1960 file photo, actress Janet Leigh appears as Marion Crane in the shower scene in Alfred Hitchcock's 1960 classic thriller "Psycho."

By JAKE COYLE
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—For his first professional acting job, a 22-year-old Anthony Hopkins took a train from South Wales to Manchester. With time to kill on a rainy day, he dropped off his bags and headed to the movies, where a long queue wound outside the cinema.

"It was packed," Hopkins recalls. "I sat down and I didn't know what the hell I was in for. I had heard stories about it. When it got to the shower scene, I don't think I've ever been so scared in my life."

The movie was, of course, Alfred Hitchcock's "Psycho," a film that 52 years after its shocking premiere still hasn't released audiences from its subversive thrall. The film, which Hitchcock called "a fun picture," was revolutionary in its violence, its sexiness, its sympathy to the perspective of the criminal mind—and, perhaps above all, its technique.

"What if someone really good made a horror picture?" wonders the British director, played by Hopkins, in the new film "Hitchcock."

Directed by Sacha Gervasi, it depicts the making of "Psycho" with a keen focus on Hitchcock's relationship—and profession indebtedness—to his wife Alma Reville (played by Helen Mirren).

It is only the latest example of the undying fascination with "Psycho," a film that ushered in a new darkness in American movies, one with a playful sense of irony toward violence but also a serious treatment of that which had previously been considered mere "schlock." Though Hitchcock made a dozen films that could easily be labeled masterpieces, none seized audiences with the same power as "Psycho."

Made for just $800,000 at the end of Hitchcock's contract with Paramount (which distributed the film but left Hitchcock to finance it himself), "Psycho," based on Robert Bloch's novel, went on to gross $32 million—the biggest hit of his career. The director famously handed out manuals to theaters with explicit directions not to let anyone in after the movie began. Though most critics dismissed the film then, some finally began to consider Hitchcock an artist of the highest order—most notably Robin Wood, who called "Psycho" "perhaps the most terrifying film ever made."

"We are (taken) forward and downward into the darkness of ourselves," wrote Wood. "`Psycho' begins with the normal and draws us steadily deeper and deeper into the abnormal."

That "Psycho" killed off its star—Janet Leigh—after just half an hour was only one of its many unheard of elements. Scenes of Leigh in her underwear were unusual for their time, too, and prompted lengthy negotiations between Hitchcock and the censors. Even a flushing toilet—considered a vulgar sight—had never been seen in such a big movie.

Of course, the infamous shower scene in which Leigh's Marion Crane meets her demise—immediately recognizable from the "screaming violins" of Bernard Herrmann's score—is the film's piece de resistance. The ruthless slicing wasn't of flesh, but of film: 70 shots in 45 seconds, a perfect marriage of montage and murder. A prop man sounded the scene by knifing casaba melons.

In his book "The Moment of `Psycho': How Alfred Hitchcock Taught America to Love Murder," the critic David Thomson argues that the influence of "Psycho" is everywhere in movies, including "Bonnie and Clyde," "Jaws," "Taxi Driver," many of the films of Stanley Kubrick and even the James Bond movies. "Psycho," Thomson writes, let "the subversive secret out," after which "censorship crumpled like an old lady's parasol."

"It's one of the most influential films ever made," says Thomson. "It's the beginnings of a flood of violence. Violence becomes more acceptable in film. It's a whole new attitude to the criminal personality. It becomes more interesting in a way that had never really operated before. It celebrates the director. (Hitchcock) was taken with a new seriousness after that, and in turn, directors were."

In the famous interviews with French director Francois Truffaut, Hitchcock said he was most interested in "all the technical ingredients that made the audience scream" and hoped that "Psycho" would be "a film that belongs to filmmakers." That's certainly been true, as "Psycho" has inspired perhaps the most obsessive ode in Hollywood history, the near frame-by-frame 1998 remake by Gus Van Sant.

In the every-decade polling done by film magazine Sight & Sound, Hitchcock's "Vertigo" (released two years before "Psycho" to largely negative reviews) earlier this year displaced Orson Welles' "Citizen Kane" as the best film of all time, according to voting critics. Among the directors who have voted for "Psycho" in past Sight & Sound polls is the Australian filmmaker Michael Haneke, maybe the only living director who—as proven by his upcoming film "Amour"—shares both Hitchcock's skillfulness and his attention to audience manipulation through violence.

Also among filmmakers who have voted for "Psycho" is Errol Morris who, years after seeing it, pursued an interview with the real-life inspiration for Anthony Perkins' character, the serial killer Ed Gein, at the Central State Hospital for the Criminally Insane in Wisconsin.

Morris was then a graduate student at U.C. Berkley, but the extensive interviews he did with Gein (he believes the only ever done) helped set Morris on the path that would be his life's work—films that might in some way be summarized by a scene in "Psycho" that deeply affected Morris. Near the end of the film, a psychiatrist offers a pat, insufficient explanation of Gein's psychosis, which Pauline Kael called "arguably Hitchcock's worst scene."

"You feel that all psychological explanation is defeated," says Morris. "It's the ultimate noir idea, that somehow psychological explanation isn't enough. It's defeated by some kind of mechanism that stands behind all of our plans and our thoughts, our machinations. It's the feeling of being haunted by the inexplicable and the unknown."

In "Hitchcock," which is partly based on Stephen Rebello's book, "Alfred Hitchcock and the Making of Psycho," Gervasi imagines the director communicating with Gein. A more complex picture of Hitchcock is also seen in the recent HBO film "The Girl," which shows the making of "The Birds" and Hitchcock's alleged tormenting of his star actress, Tippi Hedren.

Fearing a negative portrait, the Hitchcock estate didn't allow the use of "Psycho" footage or dialogue for "Hitchcock." But the film nevertheless takes pleasure in recreating and imagining the circumstances of making a film that still transfixes—that in shrill violin notes, shrieked a revolution.

"It was a point in history where we were going from an idealistic, stylized imagination of what America could be, to this very visceral, brutal, violent period where the president is getting killed and people are getting assassinated," says Gervasi. "Here we are 52 years later talking about the shock of a film. I mean, that's a pretty powerful film."

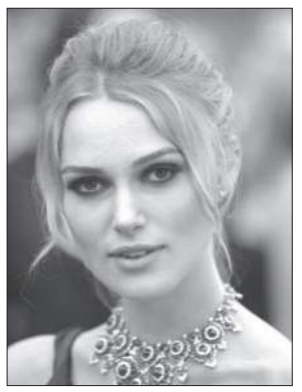
Keira Knightley returns to period costume drama in 'Anna Karenina'

By COLIN COVERT
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

MINNEAPOLIS—For Keira Knightley, playing Leo Tolstoy's Anna Karenina was the mirror image of playing Jane Austen's Elizabeth Bennet.

The heroine of her 2005 film "Pride and Prejudice" is beloved by generations of readers. This time, she had to walk an emotional tightrope in Tolstoy's drama of infidelity, vengeance and retribution, making her adulterous character spirited, energetic, relatable, yet not too likable. Knightley feared that if she made Anna an innocent victim, "you're going to lose the audience, and if you lose the audience they are just going to go, 'Oh, shut up and jump under a train!'"

"There are moments when Tolstoy hates her," she said. "I first read the book in my late teens and remembered it as this sweeping romance. Then I went back to it last summer and thought, 'This is a very different thing than I remembered.' Sometimes she is the anti-heroine. He's almost holding her up and saying, 'This is the Whore of Babylon.' He's not going, 'You should go off for this romantic love.' Then sometimes you feel he completely understands her and he's absolutely in love with her."



Knightley

Director Joe Wright wanted all those contradictions, Knightley said.

"That's the dichotomy of Anna that has made her such a fascination for so many years," Knightley said.

When half the financing dropped away, Wright's conception of the film changed radically. What was envisioned as a naturalistic production shot in Russia quickly became a stylized version shot mostly on a soundstage. The shift is well-suited to a story of a society where false and artificial values were paramount.

Wright's theatrical staging provides an ingenious background for Knightley's tortured passions, with Jude Law superb as her fussy, cold husband, Alexi, and Aaron Taylor-Johnson's romantic Vronsky the most dashing fellow since Errol Flynn swung from his last chandelier.

Knightley and Taylor-Johnson spent a fair amount of time stumbling into each other as they practiced their big ballroom dance scene.

"It's different rehearsing something in track-suit bottoms and suddenly adding a dress that was so heavy it felt as if I had a small child attached to my waist," she said. "All of a sudden you're twirling around and someone behind you is stepping on the back of your skirt, and then he steps on the front and I can't see my feet and I'm stepping on his.

"It was annoying because he picked up the dance like that, and it took me about three weeks."

Although she's no stranger to costume drama (or comedy, if you count her "Pirates of the Caribbean" films), Knightley never had a wardrobe to match Anna's. As a socialite in 19th-century St. Petersburg, Anna dresses in the height of fashion, luxury and vanity.

Costume designer Jacqueline Durran, who also costumed Knightley in period style for Wright's "Pride and Prejudice" and "Atonement," visited Chanel in Paris to borrow yards upon yards of pearls and bushels of diamonds. Each morning Knightley would choose what kind of jewels she wanted from a treasure chest worth about $2 million.

Her wardrobe helps tell the story, too.

"The themes of Anna that we liked and that made a lot of sense to me was this idea that she's a bird that's stuck in a cage," Knightley said. "Her hoop skirt frame is the cage; the veils are these beautiful cages. The idea is that it's claustrophobic, she's caught, so she's constantly surrounded by death in the furs.

"She's got these birds that can't fly stuck to her head. The diamonds are very harsh kind of stones. The only time that we ever brought a color into the jewelry was when we had a ruby that is blood red."

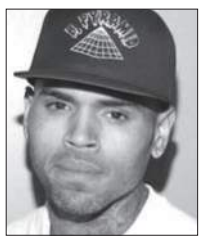
While she admitted some misgivings about the film's sudden shift in style, Knightley said she never doubted Wright's "complete obsession" with making an "Anna Karenina" that stands apart from the many earlier adaptations.

"I'm incredibly proud of it. If you think of cinema as an event, it certainly is an event. You'll only ever see naturalism on film at the moment and whether you think it's overstylized or not, you just have to celebrate the fact that it's just so completely different," she said.

"I love it, and how daring Joe has been. I'm glad I jumped off the cliff with him."

Promoter: Chris Brown cancels Guyana show

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP)—Organizers say American R&B star Chris Brown has canceled a stadium concert in Guyana after local protests over his 2009 beating of then-girlfriend Rihanna.


Brown

Brown was billed to headline a Dec. 26 show. But he drew the ire of women's rights groups and opposition lawmakers who said Brown would not be welcome in Guyana three years after his assault of Barbadian superstar Rihanna.

Concert promoter Hits & Jams Entertainment said Thursday that Brown backed out, citing discomfort with the protests.

In 2009, Brown hit, choked and bit Rihanna during an argument in Los Angeles. He later pleaded guilty to assault.

Since then, Brown has worked to repair his image, undergoing violence counseling and putting out a new album. He has a duet with Rihanna on her recently released record.

Lawsuit against Madonna dismissed in Russia

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP)—A Russian court on Thursday dismissed a lawsuit that sought millions of dollars in damages from Madonna for allegedly traumatizing minors by speaking up for gay rights during a concert in St. Petersburg.

The ruling came after a one-day hearing that bordered on the farcical. During it, plaintiffs claimed that Madonna's so-called "propaganda of perversion" would negatively affect Russia's birthrate and erode the nation's defense capability by depriving the country of future soldiers. At one point, the judge threatened to expel journalists from the courtroom if they laughed too much.

In the end, the Moskovsky district court in St. Petersburg threw out the Trade Union of Russian Citizens' lawsuit and the 333 million rubles ($10.7 million) it sought from the singer for allegedly exposing youths to "homosexual propaganda."

Madonna did not attend the trial, and her publicist Liz Rosenberg said Thursday the star wouldn't comment about it.

Anti-gay sentiment is strong in Russia, particularly in St. Petersburg, where local legislators passed a law in February that made it illegal to promote homosexuality to minors. Six months later, Madonna criticized the law on Facebook, then stood up for gay rights during a concert in St. Petersburg that drew fans as young as 12.

"Who will children grow up to be if they hear about the equal rights of the lesbian lobby and manly love with traditional sexual relations?" one of the plaintiffs, Darya Dedova, testified Thursday. "The death rate prevails over the birth rate in the West; young guys are becoming gender neutral."

China's 'Beijing Blues' wins at Taiwan film fest

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—China's "Beijing Blues" has won the best film award and Hong Kong's Johnnie To took home the best director's award at Taiwan's Golden Horse Film Festival, an event considered the Chinese-language Oscars.

"Beijing Blues" portrays the lives of the urban dwellers through the work of a squad of plainclothes crime-hunters.

In receiving the award, director Gao Qun Shu was visibly shocked, and he thanked the "globe" for giving an inexperienced director like him such honor and recognition.

To won best director for "Life Without Principle," which is about ordinary citizens in Hong Kong who are caught in the fallout of the global financial meltdown.

The film also won veteran Hong Kong actor Lau Ching Wan the best actor award for his portrayal of a triad thug seeking to recover money lost in a loan shark scheme.

Lau said he was happy to receive the award "even though you don't act in order to win an award."

Taiwan's Gwei Lun-mei won the best actress award for portraying a woman involved in a romantic triangle in "GF-BF," or "Girlfriend-Boyfriend."

AP

Taiwanese actress Gwei Lun-Mei and Hong Kong actor Lau ChingWan hold their awards for Best Actress and Best Actor for the film "GF * BF" and "Life Without Principle" at the 49th Golden Horse Awards at the Luodong Cultural Working House in Yilan County, Taiwan, Saturday, Nov. 24, 2012. The Golden Horse awards are the Chinese-language film industry's biggest annual events.

She burst into tears on receiving the award after beating out hot contenders including Hao Lei and Bai Bai He, both of China.

China's Liang Jing won best supporting actress for playing a toothy midwife harpy in "Design of Death."

Best supporting actor went to Hong Kong's Ronald Cheng for his role in "Vulgaria," about the financial capital's struggling film industry.

Controversial Chinese director Lou Ye did not receive the widely expected award for directing box-office hit "Mystery." But at the ceremony, Lou received a rare mention for eventually directing a movie that was screened in Chinese theatres.

"Mystery"—about a woman's radical revenge after uncovering her husband's infidelity—is seen as marking Lou's entry into the commercial mainstream after years on the social and artistic edge.

Lou's films have long focused on sensitive subjects like sex, violence and politics, and have repeatedly been censored by China's cultural authorities.

London sale features Elvis Presley's Rolex

LONDON (AP)—A watch which was one of Elvis Presley's last Christmas presents and a corset worn by Madonna on her 1990 "Blond Ambition" tour will be featured at a London auction.

The watch, estimated to sell for 6,000 pounds ($9,500) or more, is a diamond-set Rolex given to Presley by his longtime manager, Tom Parker. It is engraved, "Elvis merry Christmas your pal Col. Tom Parker." It was the last Christmas for Presley, who died the following year.

Madonna's corset by Jean-Paul Gaultier is of green silk with conical cups and beaded fringe, embroidered with candy stripes of opalescent sequins and peppermint bugle beads.

Christie's estimates that the corset will sell for at least 10,000 pounds.

Christie's previewed the sale on Friday. The auction will be on Thursday.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Singer Bjork's vocal cord surgery successful

LONDON (AP)—Icelandic singer Bjork says she has had successful surgery to remove a vocal cord polyp. The eccentric 47-year-old singer says on her official website that she had been trying to tackle the problem with exercises and diets since doctors first discovered the polyp, a benign growth on either one or both of the vocal cords, several years ago. Bjork said that she decided to undergo laser surgery and it has worked, though she had to stay quiet for three weeks. She wrote: "Surgery rocks! ... It's been very satisfying to sing all them clear notes again." The singer apologized for cancelling various shows earlier this year, and that she looked forward to singing for her fans next year. Last year Adele had minor surgery to remove a benign polyp.

Ex-Nobel winner: Choice of Mo Yan a 'catastrophe'

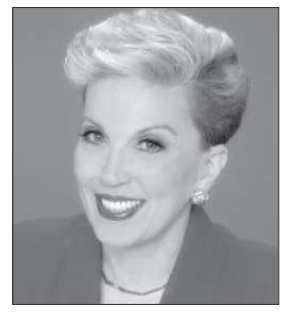
STOCKHOLM (AP)—Herta Mueller, the 2009 winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature, says the choice to give this year's award to Mo Yan is a "catastrophe" that never should have happened, and accuses the Chinese writer of praising the Asian country's tough censorship laws. In an interview published in Swedish daily Dagens Nyheter on Saturday, the Romanian-born author—whose struggle under Nicolae Ceausescu's dictatorship has influenced most of her works—says she wanted to cry when she learned of the 2012 laureate choice. She says she feels "it's a catastrophe," and an "incredibly upsetting" choice. Mo, the first Chinese writer to win the literature award, has been criticized for compromising his artistic and intellectual independence by being a Communist Party member and vice president of the official writers association.

Marc Anthony comes to aid of Dominican orphanage

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP)—Singer Marc Anthony is coming to the aid of an orphanage in the Dominican Republic. A foundation run by Anthony with music and sports producer Henry Cardenas plans to build a new residence hall, classrooms and a baseball field for the Children of Christ orphanage in the eastern city of La Romana. Anthony attended the groundbreaking ceremony Friday with his model girlfriend Shannon de Lima. Children of Christ Foundation Director Sonia Hane said Anthony visited the orphanage previously and decided to help. His Maestro Cares Foundation raised $200,000 for the expansion on land donated by a sugar company. The orphanage was founded in 1996 for children who were abused or abandoned or whose parents were unable to care for them.

Man can't trust woman who's had one marriage too many

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: I'm a 51-year-old man. Three years ago, my first and only marriage ended after 20 years. Over the past two years, I have been in a wonderful relationship with a very bright woman, "Toni," who told me she had been married twice before.

A year ago, her job required that she move out of state, but we have successfully maintained the long-distance relationship with frequent visits and daily phone calls.

A few days ago, I learned by chance that she was briefly married a third time while she was in her early 20s. I'm having a difficult time with this news—not for the additional marriage, but for the fact that she chose not to share it with me. I have bared my soul to her and thought she had done the same. I'm sad and disappointed.

Toni doesn't know that I know this, but it has changed my feelings for her. Trust issues are in question. Do I bring this up now? If so, how? Do I wait for her to bring it up someday in the future? How do I reconcile it in the meantime?

LET DOWN IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR LET DOWN: You say you visit each other frequently, so I assume you plan to be together soon. When you see her, tell her you were told she had been briefly married a third time. She may have told you she was twice DIVORCED, and if the marriage in her 20s was annulled, that may be the reason she didn't mention it. If you were deliberately lied to, you will know by her reaction.

DEAR ABBY: Two years ago, I dated this guy, "Craig." I tried to be the perfect girlfriend, and I was extremely close to his grandfather. When Craig went away to the Army, I would visit his grandfather regularly, and we developed a special bond. When Craig got back, we were supposed to get married, but he dumped me. The next day he had a new girlfriend.

Craig was hard to get over, and I didn't handle the breakup well. Because his grandfather asked, I tried to maintain a relationship with him, but Craig's then-wife didn't like it and asked him to end my contact with his friends and family.

Sometimes I wonder if I could have changed things. When Craig broke up with his wife, we exchanged emails on a dating website where we both apologized for what happened between us.

I just heard that his grandfather died. Would it be wrong of me to reach out to him? We don't talk.

STILL NOT OVER HIM IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR STILL NOT OVER HIM: I see no reason why you shouldn't extend your sympathy to Craig for the loss of his grandfather, with whom you were close. However, keep in mind that there is a reason you haven't been talking and that communication is supposed to be two-way. Also, as much as you may wish it would, it may not resurrect your romance.

DEAR ABBY: We are a small group of senior women. Whenever we go to a restaurant, one member of the group insists on changing tables that are offered by the host/hostess. This can happen two or three times, and I find it embarrassing and annoying. It seems like some kind of control issue to me, and I don't want to be part of it. Any suggestions?

TIRED OF THE MUSICAL CHAIRS

DEAR TIRED: I agree with you that it's a control issue. Because you find it embarrassing and annoying, ask the other women in the group if it bothers them, too. If the answer is yes, then the woman needs to be told to cut it out, or she'll be invited to join you less often.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

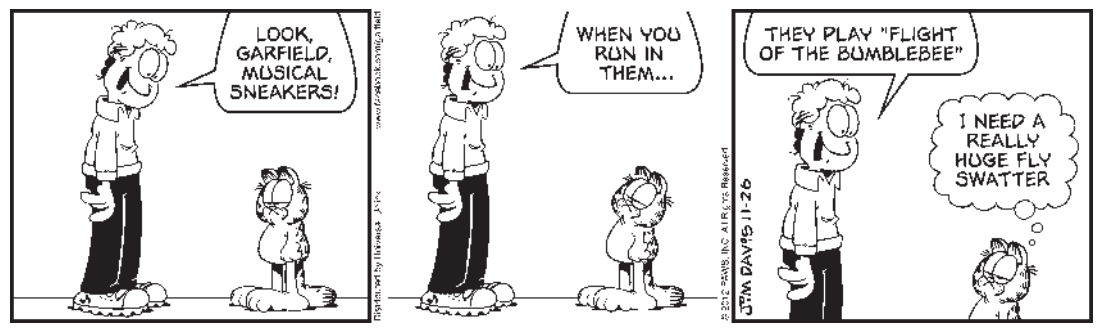
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

CAN I LEARN TO PARACHUTE OUT OF AN AIRPLANE?
WHY DON'T YOU JUST PLAY "CHICKEN" ON THE RAILROAD TRACKS? IT WOULD BE A CHEAPER WAY TO TOY WITH DEATH, I'M SURE.
MOM'S SO PRACTICAL.
11-26

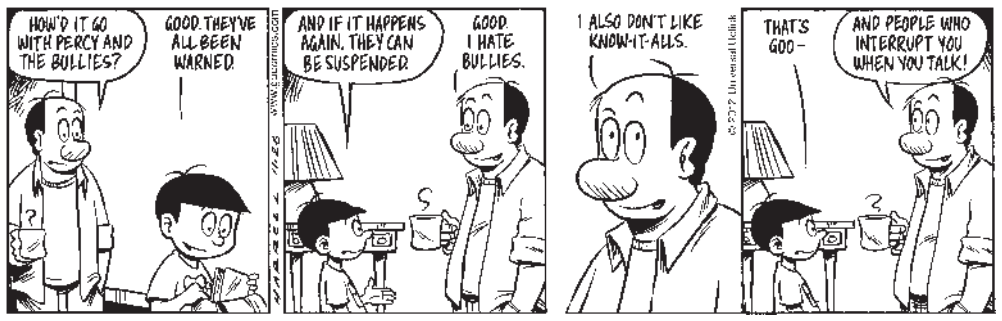
Garfield®

By Jim Davis


LOOK, GARFIELD, MUSICAL SNEAKERS!
WHEN YOU RUN IN THEM...
THEY PLAY "FLIGHT OF THE BUMBLEBEE"
I NEED A REALLY HUGE FLY SWATTER
JIM DAVIS 11-26

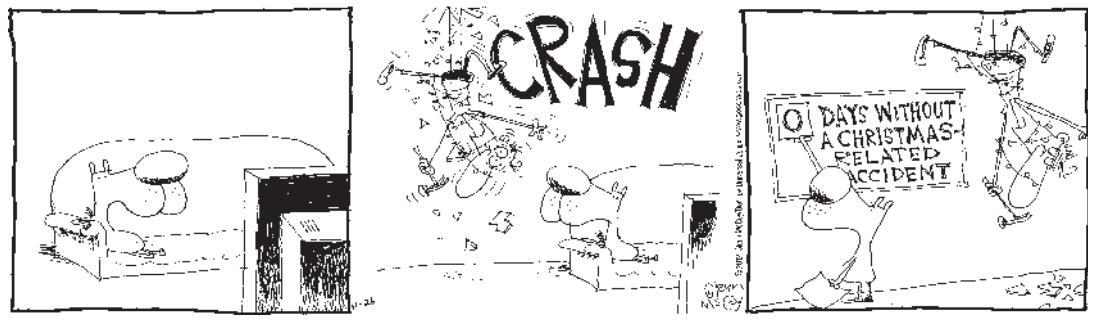
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HOW'D IT GO WITH PERCY AND THE BULLIES?
GOOD. THEY'VE ALL BEEN WARNED.
AND IF IT HAPPENS AGAIN, THEY CAN BE SUSPENDED.
GOOD. I HATE BULLIES.
I ALSO DON'T LIKE KNOW-IT-ALLS.
THAT'S GOO-
AND PEOPLE WHO INTERRUPT YOU WHEN YOU TALK!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

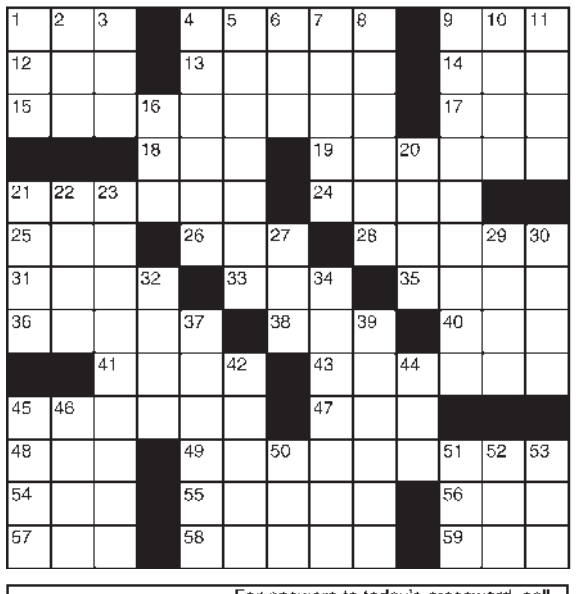
ACROSS
1 — out a living
4 Chops clumsily
9 Zodiac feline
12 "The Thin Man" actress
13 Foolish
14 Sixth sense, for short
15 Students' excursion
17 Chubby
18 Oklahoma city
19 Ranking
21 Laundry container
24 "I'll — and I'll puff ..."
25 A Gershwin brother
26 Just out
28 Corn
31 Outlet
33 Depressed
35 Oboe insert
36 Relaxed
38 Pouch
40 Trail behind
41 Bus rider's payment
43 Walk like a duck
45 Original
47 Modern-day evidence
48 Fib
49 Voles, e.g.
54 Every bit
55 Terrycloth item
56 Illuminated
57 Homer Simpson's neighbor
58 Cubic meter
59 Fond du —, Wis.

DOWN
1 Sprite
2 Japanese pond carp
3 CBS logo
4 Stashed
5 Scorpio's brightest star
6 Automobile
7 Doughy snack
8 Anatomical wall
9 Where the unexpected "comes out of"
10 Birthright barterer
11 Chooses, with "for"
16 Sitter's creation
20 Somewhere out there
21 Bee's home
22 Neighborhood
23 Actress Jayne
27 Existed
29 Ardor
30 Advantage
32 Squad
34 Time waster
37 Conscripts
39 Something wicked?
42 His work inspired "Cats"
44 Beaver's structure
45 Blueprint
46 Anger
50 Female sheep
51 Ailing
52 Spy org.
53 And so on (abbr.)

Solution time: 24 mins.

A	C	T		T	O	G	S		S	T	E	W
P	L	Y		U	L	N	A		P	A	T	E
S	O	P		R	E	A	M		E	L	U	L
E	Y	E	B	R	O	W	P	E	N	C	I	L
			Y	E	S		L	A	D			
S	C	O	T	T		S	E	T		B	U	M
H	A	R	P		B	F	D		B	A	S	S
E	W	E		P	O	X		L	A	Y	E	R
			S	O	W		P	E	I			
P	E	N	C	I	L	P	U	S	H	E	R	S
A	R	I	A		I	R	K	S		A	I	L
W	I	L	L		N	I	K	E		S	P	A
N	E	E	D		G	M	A	N		Y	E	W

Saturday's answer 11-26



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Peter Facinelli, 39; Garcelle Beauvais, 46; Tina Turner, 73; Rich Little, 74.

Happy Birthday: Rely on your resourcefulness. Take a practical approach to what you have to offer and how you can get the most for your services. Past partnerships will play a role in your life and add something unusual to your future prospects. Don't fear being a little different. It's your unique and fearless quality that draws attention. Your numbers are 6, 11, 18, 21, 26, 31, 40.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): A partnership offering unusual rewards is apparent. Take care of paperwork that may create a problem if left unattended. A passionate encounter will inspire you to resurrect an old project. Don't make an impulsive professional decision. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Take advantage of an opportunity to travel for business or to set up a meeting that will allow you to discuss future plans. Partnerships will be sensitive. It's worthwhile to nurture and protect important connections that can influence life. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't be fooled by what your peers say or do. Do your best to stand out. Show interest and ingenuity when dealing with both colleagues and authority figures. Practical coupled with unique will win out in the end. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Take on a challenge and you will excel. You can enhance your reputation if you network or socialize. Both personal and professional relationships will be important. Don't let a last-minute change alter the way you feel about someone special. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't rely on anything or anyone. You'll face opposition at home if you don't find a way to compromise. Sign up for a course that will help you master your skills. Insight into a personal investment will help you make a decision. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't hesitate to choose what you want to do and the people you want to work alongside. Love is in the stars, and socializing or taking a trip to a destination that encourages encounters with people who interest you should be scheduled. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't fold under pressure or let someone guilt you into doing something questionable. Rely on past experience when dealing with your boss, client or peers. You can make an interesting professional or financial change by investing in your talent. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Make personal changes to the way you live and to the relationships that count. Letting go of what doesn't work for you anymore will be beneficial and result in having more time to concentrate on what's truly important. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Focus on causes that need your input. You can make a difference as long as you stick to simple but effective plans that are easy to implement. Too much of anything will be your downfall. A favorable change at home will lift your spirits. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Stop putting off the fun things you hope to accomplish. Make a choice and follow your heart. Take on a challenge that will allow you to satisfy both your personal and professional needs. Love and romance are in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Being low-key and observant will be required to avoid negative reactions from the people you encounter. Expect to face a force play if you have not taken care of your end of a bargain you made. Deal with authority positively and swiftly. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Take pride in what you do and don't be afraid to brag about what you've accomplished. A contract, settlement or money owed to you will be granted. Travel plans must be kept to a minimum in order to avoid going over budget. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a strategist and an entrepreneur. You are mysterious, secretive and imaginative.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	7	5	3	9		2		
2							4	
8					4	3		5
3			8		9	6		
1				4				7
		8	2		7			9
5		4	1					2
	8							4
		2		6	5	8	7	

Difficulty Level ★ 11/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

5	1	4	7	8	2	9	3	6
8	2	3	5	9	6	4	7	1
6	9	7	4	3	1	8	5	2
3	6	1	2	5	8	7	9	4
2	4	5	6	7	9	3	1	8
7	8	9	3	1	4	6	2	5
1	7	6	8	2	3	5	4	9
9	5	8	1	4	7	2	6	3
4	3	2	9	6	5	1	8	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 11/23

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HAPPY 60TH BIRTHDAY, DAVID! **Solution: 7 letters**

M	E	H	E	N	I	H	P	E	S	O	J	A	C	K
A	N	C	A	N	A	D	I	A	N	B	M	A	R	K
R	I	N	C	L	I	N	D	A	V	N	O	E	Y	T
R	C	E	E	C	Y	O	J	R	E	I	G	O	N	E
I	N	R	Q	U	A	R	T	H	A	A	C	I	K	J
E	A	F	A	N	S	T	P	N	N	H	L	T	O	S
D	R	O	W	E	L	E	T	A	A	C	F	K	O	D
M	F	O	Ⓟ	M	T	L	M	R	E	A	E	P	R	R
O	R	D	Ⓛ	S	A	L	L	B	U	S	H	A	B	C
D	E	I	Ⓐ	A	A	E	E	S	D	I	H	L	F	R
S	X	E	Ⓨ	R	S	U	T	R	E	C	U	U	R	U
I	T	N	E	L	Q	O	O	Y	I	E	T	A	A	I
W	O	N	D	E	R	W	O	R	D	O	R	P	N	S
S	E	L	L	E	A	H	P	A	R	C	O	O	K	E
G	E	N	E	R	O	U	S	G	S	E	C	U	A	S

© 2012 Universal Uclick www.wonderwordcom Join us on Facebook 11/26

Antoine, Blue, Books, Canadian, Charles, Clint, Cook, Cruises, Fans, Fausto, Foodie, Francine, Frank, French, Frex, Gary, General Manager, Generous, Jack, Jay, Jokes, Josephine, Joyce, Lenti, Linda, Mark, Married, Ouellet, Paul, Play, Quart, Quebec, Raphaelle, Richard, Sauces, Sonya, Sophie, Stephen, Team, Teleword, Victor, Wisdom, Wonderword, Words.

Last Saturday's Answer: Challenger

To order THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 or 36 send $5.95 each ($7.95 each in Canada) plus postage to: Universal Uclick, P.O. Box 8747, Kansas City, MO 64114-0747. Add $3.00 postage for the first book and $1.00 for each additional book. Send check or money order (U.S. funds only) to: Universal Uclick, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106. Or call toll-free 1-800-591-8863 (Mon-Fri 8 a.m.-5 p.m. CST). Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. Offer valid in the U.S. only.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED TO BUY

Need cash fast??? We want to buy your OnePass miles or Skymiles!!! Call 888-2205.

FOR SALE

2009 Hyundai Tucson SUV. Excellent condition; Like new; Mileage 29K; Color Silver; Sale $10,900. Call 287-7676.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

2 Bedroom Apartment for Rent. For $200.00 / month. Koblerville, please call 288-0728.

Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $450-$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

QQ RENT A CAR
Starting as low as... **$29.99** **without Insurance**
Call: 233-8855, 483-8866 or 233-8866
$100 Security Deposit Required
Garapan • Susupe • San Antonio
Some conditions may apply

Job Vacancy Announcement

Accountant

- With a degree in Accountancy
- With at least 3 yrs work experience in related field
- Proficient in Peachtree Software

Send resume by mail at PMB 206 Box 10000 Saipan MP 96950 or by email: jackytheking@hotmail.com or call Roshi's at 234-6533

WHATZIT Solution: Run an errand

Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) Ground Maintenance
Salary: $5.55 Duties: Lawn Care Cleaning and Bush cutting
Interested applicants can call 788-9693 or 285-6056.

JR Lawn Care
PMB 1864 Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96952

MAKE-A-WISH®
Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr.,
Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

Job Vacancy Announcement

WELDER (1) - $5.55 to $6.00 per hour.
Must be high school graduate with minimum of 5 years experience as Welder. Must be knowledgeable on how to perform SMAW, GMAW, GTAW welding process, with knowledge how to use plasma cutting machine, oxy-acethelene cutting, hang soldering, or brazing equipment to weld or join metal components or to fill holes, indentations, or seams of fabricated metal products. Must be able to work flexible time.

Closing Date: December 8, 2012

Application are available at GPPC Inc. at As Perdido, Saipan. A copy of valid Police Clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills testing may be required. GPPC, INC. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

JOE HILL, Esq.,
HILL LAW OFFICES
P.O. Box 500917, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743
Fax: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CORAZON I. BUENPACIFICO-PALANG, Petitioner,	) FCD DI) CIVIL ACTION) NO. 12-0521
versus	)
ALEXANDER B. PALANG, Respondent.	) **SUMMONS**)

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewee, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 30th day of October, 2012

/s/ **Deputy Clerk of Court**
Superior Court

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

JVA No. 12-036

Opening Date: Thursday, November 1, 2012
Closing Date: Tuesday, November 27, 2012

SENIOR ENGINEER

Duties: Under the general supervision of the Deputy Director for Electric Power Systems, or his/her designee - namely the Power Manager (Transmission and Distribution). Performs project management activities to include: preparing reports, memorandums and recommendations; developing scope of work; providing technical reviews; surveying for projects; developing procurement and bid documents, evaluating proposals; monitoring project process; approving payment; and, recommending award of projects. Prepares engineering designs, plans, data collection and specifications. Performs load flow and protection studies and analysis. Troubleshoot and analyze system and equipment faults and determine root causes. Carry out planning, design, construction ,management, operation and maintenance of transmission and distribution system in a saline environment. Research, write, and manage the conditions and requirements for renewable energy PPAs and Interconnection Agreements . Reviews work performed by engineering technicians and engineers. Coordinates and meets with other divisions to coordinate activities and projects. Supervises engineering support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level.

LOCATION: Power Division (Transmission and Distribution) , SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: $60,000.00 to $73,195.00 per year; un-graded, un-classified.
POSITION: One (1).
CONTRACT: Not contracted.

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering and four years of directly related experience in an electrical utility. A Master's Degree in Engineering is preferred. Must be a licensed professional engineer from a U.S. state or territory. An engineer with an active NCEES Record is preferred. Knowledge of: Safe work practices; Applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Project management principles; Mathematical concepts; Engineering principles and practices. Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Managing multiple projects; Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Interpreting drawings; Preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation; Presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; Reading and interpreting scaled drawings; Preparing specifications, plans, and cost estimates; Conducting studies; Using load flow and related software applications; Using CAD programs to prepare plans for small projects and exhibits; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a U.S. driver's license.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER
P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A. • Tel. Nos. (670) 235-7025 to 32 Fax (670) 235-5131

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	COMBO (PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

ERRAND

WHATZIT? © 2012 www.whatzit.com
Distributed by Universal Uclick

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

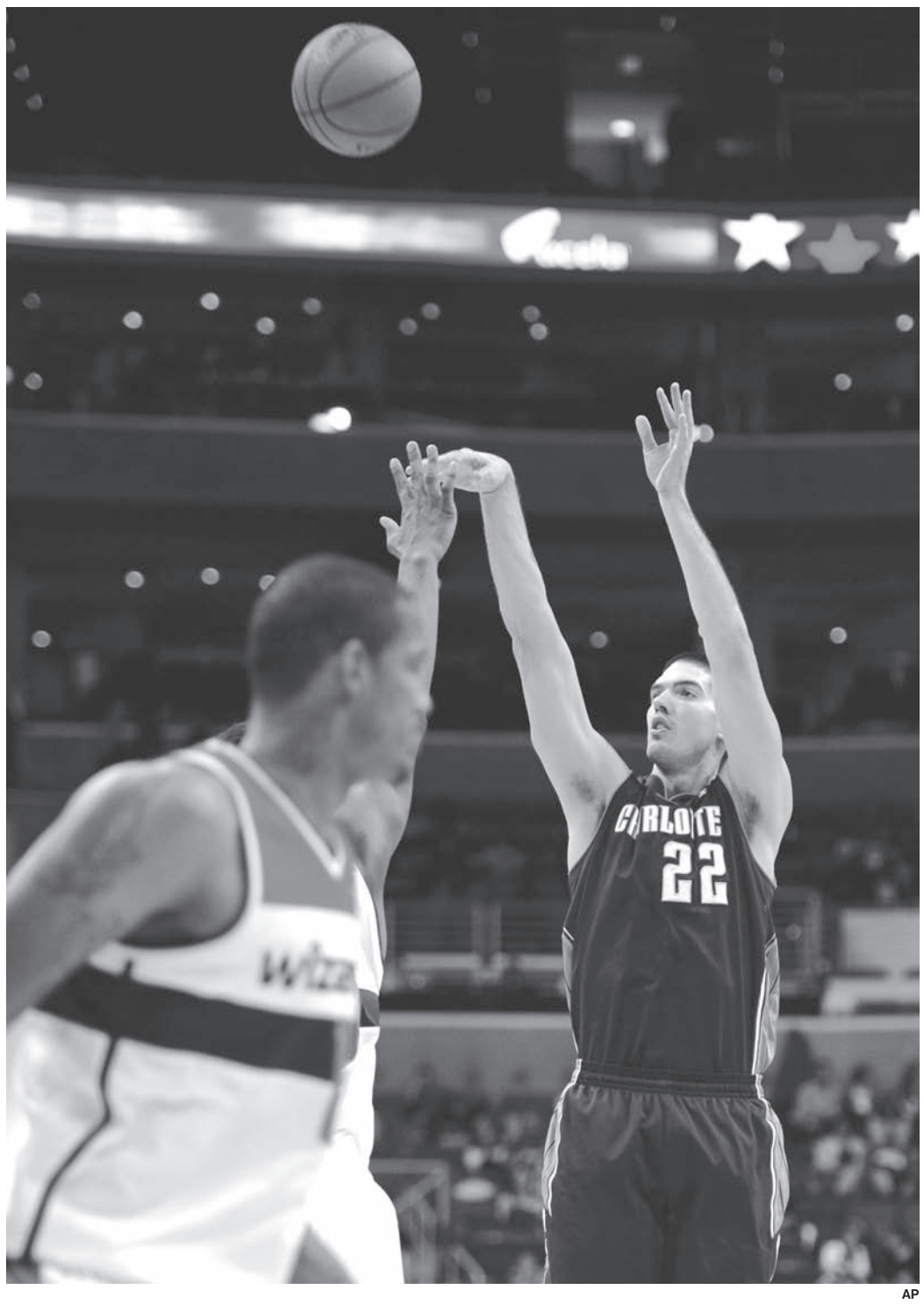
Bobcats keep Wizards winless with 2OT win

WASHINGTON (AP)—Byron Mullens scored 27 points, Ramon Sessions had 20 and Ben Gordon added 19 as the Charlotte Bobcats earned their seventh win of the season and kept the Washington Wizards winless with a 108-106 double-overtime victory on Saturday night.

Last season, the Bobcats went 7-59 in the lockout-shortened season, the lowest winning percentage in NBA history, but have already equaled that victory total in their 12th game.

Washington fell to 0-11 despite the spark supplied by Nene, who energized the Wizards during most of his 29 minutes, but in the end, the Bobcats pulled out the win.

Martel Webster had 21 points for Washington and Nene scored 19.



AP

Charlotte Bobcats center Byron Mullens (22) shoots against the Washington Wizards during the first half of an NBA basketball game on Saturday, Nov. 24, 2012, in Washington.

Lakers 115, Mavericks 89

In Dallas, Metta World Peace hit three early 3-pointers to spark a Los Angeles barrage from long range, and the Lakers scored 36 points before Kobe Bryant took his first shot.

Bryant, the league's leading scorer, finished with 19 once he did start shooting as the Lakers hit the century mark for the first time in four games under hobbled coach Mike D'Antoni.

The Lakers won for the first time in five road games and avoided their worst start away from home in nearly 20 years.

O.J. Mayo, who led the league in 3-pointers going in, was 0 of 5 from long range and finished with 13 points. Vince Carter led Dallas with 16.

Heat 110, Cavaliers 108

In Miami, Ray Allen took a pass from LeBron James and made a 3-pointer with 18.2 seconds left, and Miami rallied from a seven-point deficit in the final 1:52 to beat Cleveland.

James finished with 30 points for the Heat, who remained perfect at home despite leading for only 2 minutes, 29 seconds. Chris Bosh scored 23 points, Dwyane Wade added 18 and Allen finished with 17 for the Heat, who lost Shane Battier in the third quarter to a sprained right knee.

Cleveland had a good look at the lead, but Wade blocked Jeremy Pargo's jumper with 3 seconds left, and Allen added one free throw to stretch the lead to two. Cleveland controlled the rebound with 0.6 seconds left, but never got anything near the rim.

Thunder 116, 76ers 109, OT

In Philadelphia, Kevin Durant scored 37 points, Russell Westbrook had 30 and Oklahoma City beat Philadelphia.

Serge Ibaka added 18 points for the defending Western Conference champions, who've won nine of 11 to go to 10-4.

Thad Young had a season-high 29 points and career-high 15 rebounds, and Evan Turner scored 26 points for Philadelphia, which has lost two in a row after winning three straight.

Hawks 104, Clippers 93

In Atlanta, Jeff Teague had 19 points and 11 assists, Zaza Pachulia added 19 points and 12 rebounds, and Atlanta won its fifth straight by beating Los Angeles.

Blake Griffin scored 22 points and Chris Paul had 19 for the Clippers.

Los Angeles has lost a season-high three consecutive games after winning six in a row.

Lou Williams finished with 18 points and Josh Smith added 17 for Atlanta.

Bulls 93, Bucks 86

In Milwaukee, Carlos Boozer and Richard Hamilton scored 22 points apiece to lead Chicago over Milwaukee, breaking a four-game losing streak.

The win by the Bulls was the ninth straight over the Bucks and the fifth straight at the Bradley Center. The last time Milwaukee beat Chicago was on April 10, 2010, in Chicago.

Boozer also grabbed 19 rebounds for the Bulls, who outrebounded the Bucks 54-40.

Brandon Jennings led the Bucks with 23 points and Monta Ellis added 17 points.

Kings 108, Jazz 97

In Sacramento, California, Tyreke Evans scored 21 of his 27 points in the second half and slumping Sacramento beat Utah.

The Kings squandered a 13-point lead in a two-point loss Friday in Utah, but this time held on to win for only the second time in eight games.

Jason Thompson had 16 points and nine rebounds for Sacramento, which outscored the Jazz 56-41 in the second half. Aaron Brooks made three 3-pointers and scored 13 points. Sacramento committed 12 first-half turnovers, but had just two after intermission.

Kings center DeMarcus Cousins was ejected with 1:35 left in the third quarter after arguing over a foul he committed against Enes Kanter. Cousins, the Kings' leading scorer and rebounder, had 13 points and nine rebounds.

Warriors 96, Timberwolves 85

In Oakland, California, Klay Thompson scored a season-high 24 points, Stephen Curry added 20 points and six assists, and Golden State beat Minnesota.

The Warriors trailed most of the game but went on a 19-2 run, with reserves Carl Landry, Draymond Green and rookie Harrison Barnes providing the bulk of the scoring. Landry had five points, Green had four and Barnes—who had a thunderous one-handed dunk over Minnesota's 6-foot-11 center Nikola Pekovic in the second quarter—added three to help Golden State go ahead for good.

David Lee added 17 points and eight rebounds for the Warriors, who have won 10 of 12 against the Timberwolves.

Kevin Love had 15 points and 15 rebounds for Minnesota, his third straight double-double since returning from a broken right hand.

No. 1 Notre Dame beats USC 22-13, earns title shot

LOS ANGELES (AP)—For four straight plays in the waning minutes, Notre Dame's defense was backed up to its 1 with its perfect season in peril.

And on four straight plays, Southern California got nothing.

"We're going to fight," linebacker Manti Te'o said. "That's our name. It doesn't matter where we are."

The Fighting Irish will be in Miami next. With one another hard-nosed victory, they punched their ticket to the BCS championship game.

Theo Riddick rushed for 146 yards and a touchdown, Kyle Brindza kicked five field goals, and No. 1 Notre Dame secured the chance to play for the national title with a 22-13 victory over USC on Saturday night.

Everett Golson passed for 217 yards as the Irish (12-0) completed their first perfect regular season since 1988, earning a trip to south Florida on Jan. 7 to play for the storied program's first national championship in 24 years. Notre Dame's raucous locker-room celebration reverberated through the thick concrete walls of the 89-year-old Coliseum after an Irish win for the ages.

"I'm still in awe," Irish defensive end Kapron Lewis-Moore said. "I don't think it's hit anybody yet. We're trying to relish the moment."

Although they did little with flash on an electric night at the Coliseum, the Irish woke up more echoes of past Notre Dame greats with a grinding effort in this dynamic intersectional rivalry with USC (7-5).

Notre Dame's impenetrable defense appropriately made that decisive stand in the final minutes, keeping USC out of the end zone on four plays from the Irish 1 with 2:33 to play. After three straight runs yielded minuscule gains, freshman Max Wittek threw incomplete to fullback Soma Vainuku, setting off a leaping, chest-bumping celebration on the Notre Dame sideline and in the Irish sections of the sold-out stadium.

"Well, that's who we are," Notre Dame coach Brian Kelly said. "It's been our defense all year. Our offense is able to manage enough points."

After spending more than a decade looking up at the Trojans, the Irish are back on top of this rivalry with two straight wins in Los Angeles. The school of Knute Rockne, the Four Horsemen and Paul Hornung has new heroes now, from the Heisman Trophy hopeful Te'o to Kelly, who took the Irish from unranked to start the season to No. 1 in the AP Top 25 for the first time in 19 years.

"It's definitely a relief to be able to look at the big picture now, but it's a short window," said Te'o, who had a key interception and became the second Irish defender with three 100-tackle seasons. "We can enjoy this, but then we're going to have to get prepared for one more game."

The grind-it-out win highlighted an unforgettable season for the Irish, who began the year with questions about their relevancy and survived some uninspiring performances and nail-biting finishes with their unbeaten record intact.

Notre Dame is likely to face a Southeastern Conference opponent in Miami, but won't know their identities for another week. Alabama and Georgia play for the SEC title in Atlanta.

"The way we looked at it, if we won all of our games, at least we'd give ourselves a chance," Riddick said. "We've got super confidence as a team now."

With the Irish offense repeatedly stalling in the red zone against the Trojans, Brindza went five for six on field goals, even hitting a 52-yarder at the halftime gun. After Brindza's school record-tying fifth field goal put the Irish up by nine points with 5:58 left, Marqise Lee caught a 53-yard pass at the Notre Dame 2.

But after two pass interference penalties, USC failed on three straight runs and an ill-conceived pass against a defense that has allowed just 11 rushing TDs in 30 games.

"They've had a great goal-line defense all year," USC coach Lane Kiffin said. "They've done that to everybody down on the goal line. ... It's just so hard to score touchdowns versus them. When the ball is on the 2-inch line, you'd think you could score touchdowns."

Wittek passed for 186 yards with two interceptions in his first career start for the Trojans, who completed their tumble from the preseason No. 1 ranking with four losses in five games in an enormously disappointing season. Wittek filled in capably for injured Matt Barkley, but USC is headed to a lower-tier bowl in the first year after its NCAA-mandated two-year postseason ban ended.

Lee caught five passes for 75 yards, yet still broke the Pac-12 single-season receptions record established last year by teammate Robert Woods, who had seven catches for 92 yards.

"For a freshman, Max did a great job," Lee said. "We just had a lot of mistakes again tonight. I made mistakes. We have to get better."

Ugly loss 'hard to fathom' for Jets coach Rex Ryan

NEW YORK (AP)—It was an embarrassing moment that has already been replayed thousands of times, and in many ways symbolized this increasingly awful season for the New York Jets.

There's Mark Sanchez running straight ahead on a busted play Thursday night—right into the backside of one of his offensive linemen. Sanchez lost the ball, the New England Patriots recovered it and took it into the end zone for one of three touchdowns in a 52-second span en route to a 49-19 thrashing of the Jets.

If you haven't seen it yet, it's all over YouTube—nearly 20,000 views in 15 hours—and will be included in pretty much every blooper reel from here on out.

"I'm not a big believer in luck," Sanchez said after the game, "but that was pretty unlucky."

That's the type of season this has been for the fading and fumbling Jets (4-7).

Rex Ryan was still trying to make sense of it all Friday morning, just hours after leaving MetLife Stadium following perhaps the worst loss in his nearly four seasons as Jets coach.

"It's still hard to fathom that one stretch," Ryan said during a conference call. "I've never seen anything like it in all my years of coaching football or following football."

Say this for Ryan, though: The guy is defiantly optimistic, no matter how silly or unrealistic it seems at the moment.

Sure, the Jets have lost four of their last five games and are barely holding on to their nearly impossible playoff hopes. But, Ryan believes his team might still be able to get this done, especially with their last five opponents all having losing records.

"I'm responsible for everything," Ryan said. "I'm responsible for the 4-7 record and I'm responsible for how we play. But I will say this: I'll also be responsible for how we finish, and I'm confident that we'll finish."

In reality, Ryan's bunch can forget about the playoffs for now. They'll have enough trouble even getting to .500 with the way they've played.

The heat has been turned up on Ryan, whose job appeared absolutely safe just a few weeks ago. Now, it could all depend on these last five games, and whether owner Woody Johnson regains confidence in him and general manager Mike Tannenbaum or decides to clean house.

Last season, offensive coordinator Brian Schottenheimer was the fall guy. Johnson might hold a few more people accountable this time around, Ryan included.

"I never thought we'd be in this position, but we are," Ryan said. "I have to get better right now and we have to get better, and I'm confident we will. We have five games left in the regular season, and I think that we will get better. I know we'll get better."

AP

New York Jets head coach Rex Ryan reacts after quarterback Mark Sanchez fumbled and New England Patriots' Steve Gregory returned it for a touchdown during the first half of an NFL football game on Thursday, Nov. 22, 2012, in East Rutherford, N.J.

Ryan said he and Johnson spoke "briefly" but wouldn't elaborate on what was said. It surely wasn't positive, though. And, how could it be after the owner pushed to have his team showcased on Thanksgiving night for the second time in three years? Then, the Jets went out and allowed the most points to an opponent since giving up 52 in a season-opening loss to Miami in 1995.

Worse still, it came at the hands of the Jets' biggest rivals, the team Ryan appeared to have closed the gap on just two years ago. Now, it couldn't be wider—not that Ryan would acknowledge as much.

"They're an excellent football team," Ryan said. "But to say we'll never catch them, that's ridiculous. There is no chance, there is absolutely no percent of a chance that I believe that in my heart. And I'll never concede that."

This one was all about a few bad breaks, some unlucky moments and the Patriots taking advantage of them all.

"You turn the ball over five times, what do you expect the score to look like?" Ryan said. "That's it."

Ryan again gave a vote of confidence to Sanchez as the Jets' starting quarterback, something compounded by the fact Tim Tebow revealed he has two broken ribs. And, despite all the mistakes, Ryan insisted there were positives.

"I saw us making strides up until this game and even in this game," Ryan said. "I think our offense is improving, I really believe that."

In another example of how bizarre this season has been, Ryan spent more than half the 19-minute conference call answering questions about the backup quarterback who never played a snap in the game.

Tebow was active, but remained on the sideline—cap on and hands in his pockets—throughout as the Jets bumbled their way through the second quarter and impatient fans chanted his name. Turns out Tebow was hurt not last Sunday at St. Louis, but the previous Sunday at Seattle.

Initial X-rays after the game against the Seahawks were negative, and Tebow played against St. Louis and continued to experience soreness. The soreness intensified Tuesday morning, but Tebow was a full participant in practice that day. An MRI exam and CT scan Tuesday night revealed the fractures, and Ryan was informed that night.

Ryan made Tebow active for the game against the Patriots after speaking with him and the quarterback undergoing a pregame evaluation. Tebow also refused any pain-killing injections before the game. He took no snaps on offense or special teams, and third-stringer Greg McElroy was inactive—leaving the Jets with just one healthy quarterback in their biggest game of the season.

"I know Tim was cleared to play," Ryan said. "Obviously, if he was not cleared to play or if they thought he was in serious jeopardy to himself, then he never would have been activated."

But, it was a curious decision considering that Ryan also told offensive coordinator Tony Sparano and special teams coordinator Mike Westhoff that Tebow wasn't to be used unless it was an emergency. Apparently, 49-19 didn't qualify as such.

"People have played with cracked ribs," Ryan said. "It was never told to me that he could not play. It was just the opposite, that he could play. It was me that said, `No, I'm not going to play him unless we absolutely have to.' Tim came to me, and he's like, `I can play. I want to play.'"

Ryan acknowledged that he "considered" making McElroy active against the Patriots, but decided Tebow would be the guy to go in if necessary. Tebow said after the game that he is unsure how long he might be hindered by the injury, and Ryan would only say that "we'll see how the week progresses" as to whether McElroy might be the backup in the team's next game against Arizona on Dec. 2.

"He absolutely, 100 percent," Ryan said of Tebow, "could have played in that game."

Tax increases could factor in MLB negotiations

Team executives and agents wandered into the Agave Sunset lounge at the resort where the general managers' meetings were held in Indian Wells, Calif. Four of the six flat-screen televisions were showing election coverage, with the other two turned to sports.

President Barack Obama's victory over Mitt Romney was of as much interest to baseball's money men as the game scores, given the millions of dollars routinely guaranteed in player contracts these days.

As free agents negotiate deals this offseason, tax policy is an area that comes up along with the usual issues. Some players are wrangling for as much money as they can get before the end of the year to avoid a take hike in 2013.

"Front-loading would make sense if at all possible as tax rates will definitely go up on January 1st on all high-income taxpayers," agent Greg Genske said in an email. "The only question is HOW MUCH will the rates increase????"

This much is known for now: Starting Jan. 1, there is an additional 0.9 percent Medicare tax on wages above $200,000 for individuals and $250,000 for married couples filing jointly under the federal Affordable Care Act, a rise to 2.35 percent.

In addition, the Bush tax cuts are scheduled to expire at the end of the year, which could raise the highest marginal federal tax rate from 35 percent to 39.6 percent—although a deal between Obama and Congress could change that.

Oakland Athletics general manager Billy Beane figures agents will be on top of the changes—but the results of negotiations about the so-called fiscal cliff are unpredictable.

"I think if you're hopping around the potential of tax reform, you're probably chasing your tail," Beane said. "If they can predict when something's going to happen, then they're much further ahead than the lawmakers."

With baseball contracts worth as much as $275 million (Alex Rodriguez) and the major league minimum $480,000, tax policy affects every player who spends most of the season in the big leagues.

All-Star shortstop Jose Reyes, who has a $10 million salary next year, was traded from the Miami Marlins to the Toronto Blue Jays. While Florida has no state income tax, Reyes remains a New York resident from his days with the Mets and had high taxes to begin with. Ontario's provincial tax rises to 11.16 percent—on top of a Canadian federal level as high as 29 percent.

Among states with big league teams, income tax rates go as high as 10.3 percent in California and 8.82 percent in New York. At the other end, Florida, Texas and Washington have no state income tax. The top rate in the District of Columbia is 8.95 percent.

"I like ours; we're a no-tax state," Seattle Mariners general manager Jack Zdurienck said. "When we sit down with players, that's a huge benefit. I think any player out there that has an opportunity to play in a no-tax state gets benefits, enormous benefits. We hope that weighs in our favor."

According to an analysis done by a tax lawyer on the staff of agent Scott Boras, a player with a $10 million salary and average deductions who plays in Florida and is a resident of that state will see his taxes rise from $3.45 million this year to $4.09 million next year under current law. If traded to the Blue Jays, that player's 2013 tax would rise to $4.27 million. And if dealt to a California team, the tax would go up to $4.4 million.

By moving money from salary into signing bonuses, players can sometimes lower their state tax bills. Shifting money into December this year could reduce federal taxes.

"Tax measures are going to be discussed, but change most likely carries compromise on both sides," Boras said. "One thing is clear based on the nation's ballot totals: Many Americans are split on this subject."

In the end, most free agents choose teams based on where they want to play, not on lowering the tax cut on their income.

"It's a factor, maybe even a small factor," agent Craig Landis said. "If there's 50 variables, you can now make it a 51st. It's not usually going to be the drive, but it's something to consider."

And for teams, only the big spenders need worry.

Beane's Athletics, for instance, had the lowest payroll in the majors last season.

"It's probably not a situation I'll have to face in Oakland too much," he said.

Nelvis tops Turkey Shoot 8-ball

Marc Brian Nelvis topped the 16 player field and bagged first prize in 19th Hole's Nov. 21 Marianas Turkey Shoot 8-Ball Tournament for the second year in a row.

He took home a turkey and $120 in prize money. Chester Hamoy got a ham and $72 for second place, with Rowel Mariano earning a ham and $48 for third place. Nizer Masayas won the fourth place trophy, with Mark Butac and Chester Cuento tying for fifth.

Nelvis grabbed the high ground in the eighth edition of the annual event by marching past Ron Chisato, Jerry Soriano, Butac, and Mariano to top the winner's bracket, meaning his challenger would have to win two games to grab the title.

Marc Brian Nelvis, center, won the Marianas Turkey Shoot 8-Ball Tournament held last Wednesday at 19th Hole Bar.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Soriano, a three-time winner, got by Nolan Cultura before Nelvis sent him to the loser's bracket. Butac had defeated Greg Guerrero and Phil Kalen, who moved to the second round by besting Joseph Achas.

Mariano looked like a sure bet as he made short work of Konrad Reyes, Erwin Gomez and Cuento. Gomez handed Masayas his first loss.

Cuento bested John Mongami and Chester Hamoy before falling to Mariano. Hamoy had beaten Juancho Mendoza.

Mendoza eliminated Mongami and Soriano before falling to Masayas, who streaked past Reyes, Kalen, Mendoza and Cuento.

Cultura beat Chisato, but couldn't get past Hamoy. Guerrero passed Achas, then lost to Gomez.

Hamoy ran off five games to gain the championship round. He eliminated Cultura, Gomez, Butac, Masayas, and Mariano, but fell to Nelvis and had to settle for second.

The 19th Hole is starting the Wednesday 8-ball tournaments this week. The entry fee is $10 dollars. All matches are double elimination, following BCA rules. Please try to sign up by 7pm for an 8pm start time. ***(PR)***

CRUZ

From Page 28

Pangelinan and Cruz securing the championship, following another straight set victory, this time against Buenaventura and Jones, 6-1, 6-2.

Other pairs who clinched doubles crowns yesterday morning were Negahr Rastguiy and Mikayla Lopez, Lydia Tan and Sally Lee, Richard Asuncion and Carol Lee, Mayling Colombo and Joyce Xin Ching, Don Castillo and Yong Min Song, and Tania Tan and Clayton Izuka.

Izuka and Tan ruled the four-team mixed 3.0 doubles winning via walkover against Johanne Henson and Jonathan Libut in the semis and sweeping Mimi Sakano and Vincent Tudela in the finals, 6-0, 6-0.

Asuncion and Lee took the mixed 4.0 championship after surviving Guam's Yuka Iwata and Eddie Wu in there sets, 4-6, 6-2, 6-4. Asuncion and Lee advanced to the finals after slipping past Noel and Tisha Sonata, 3-6, 6-2, 6-1, while Wu and Iwata edged Reo Arriola and Cheiko Nagao in the other semis pairing, 6-3, 6-0.

In the men's 3.0 doubles, Castillo and Song topped the 10-team field, clinching the crown after a 6-2, 6-2 upset in the finals over second seed Jonie Peralta and Nonoy Masinda.

In the women's doubles, Rastguiy and Lopez won the open championship against the pair of Iwata and Lydia Tan, following their 6-4, 6-1 victory in the finals last Friday. Lydia Tan redeemed herself in the 4.0 division, as she teamed up with Sally Lee in defeating Carol Lee and Theecel Minor in the finals, 6-1, 6-4. Colombo and Ching also took only two sets to claim the 3.0 title, as they downed Grace Choi and Tania Tan, 6-3, 6-1.

Meanwhile, results of the mixed open and 40-and-above were unavailable at press time and will be reported with the rest of the final week games in *Saipan Tribune*'s Tuesday edition.

CASSIDY-FANUI

From Page 28

cash, a pair of waterproof cell phones compliments of IT&E and Docomo Pacific along with a $20 Shell fuel card for topping the field in addition to their Biggest Catch spoils, which included a pair of Beuchat Marlin spearguns, an Aeropec rash guard, and another fuel card.

As for The Thingz, they dominated the Biggest Catch field with a 35.56-lb Napoleon Wrasse, which undoubtedly stole the show at the event booth.

The local group also brought in an additional combined weight of 53.10 lbs that earned them third place overall.

The Thingz' Robert was credited with the catch officially and was presented with a hand-carved wooden fish trophy, an Omer Caymar speargun and a set of Cressi long fins. The group then shared third place combined weight prize package of $150 cash, a fuel card, and a lunch buffet for two at Fiesta Resort & Spa.

Meanwhile, Tinian's Joseph Cepeda and Luis Camacho, of the SS1, squeezed into second place with a combined weight of 56.04 lbs and received $200 cash, a Fishing Tackle gift certificate, a pair of Omer masks, snorkel sets, and a $20 fuel card.

They also ended up fourth place in the single-weight race with a 5.58-lb keeper, good for a Fanui gift certificate and an Omer shirt.

In addition, Luka & Ben's Derek San Nicolas and Frank Villagomez, representing Pagan, finished fourth overall with a combined weight of 52.88 lbs and received $50, a $20 Shell card, a pair of Omer shirts, and a Managaha gift bag. Bantalon Boyz's Mori Asai and Greg Sasamoto, captained by Rep. Ray Yumul (Ind-Saipan), rounded out the fifth spot with a combined weight of 50.16 lbs and won a $40 worth of Shell fuel and an IT&E grab bag.

In other results, Salty Boyz's Dave Lizama and Robert Norita, under captain Dave Pangelinan, settled for a pair of sixth place showings with a combined weight of 36.50 lbs and a 3.4-lb single weight entrant; Brown's Felix Sasamoto and Tony Tenorio came in seventh overall (27.16-lbs) and fifth in the Biggest Catch category (5.46-lbs); Luke & Ben's Villagomez entered as a solo act and finished eighth overall (10.34 lbs); Backside's Manny Torres and Jimber Marcelo finished ninth (3.62-lbs); Yamacho's Jun Yamagishi and Norman Camacho came in tenth (3.40-lbs); and Tinian's SS2 duo of Joe Mendiola and Evander Barcinas played the caboose in 11th (2.84 lbs).

The Top 6 Biggest Catch entrants received prizes, while the sixth through 11th combined weight finishers were presented with IT&E gift packs.

After the awards were handed out organizers closed the event by expressing their gratitude all of the participants from Guam, Tinian, and Guam and to Marpac, Shell Marianas, The Saipan Fishermen's Association and club president Gene Weaver, Joey and April Sablan of Marianas Island Style, IT&E, Aquasmith, Ray Flores and Fa'Nu'i Guam, Fishing Tackle, Micronesian Environmental Services and John Gourley, Rep. Ray Yumul, Richard Seman, Ray Roberto, and Mike Tenorio, the Department of Fish & Wildlife's Data & Fisheries section, the Department of Public Safety's Division of Boating Safety, Emergency Management Office, the Smiling Cove Marina staff, American Memorial Park, Rep. Ray Tebuteb, Jack Ogumoro, Necy and Tomoko Yamagishi, KKMP Radio station, Fiesta Resort & Spa and the Marianas Visitors Authority for sponsoring the event.

CHAMPION

From Page 28

the No. 3 to No. 8 finishers in the four-day tournament. The team of Darwin Gonzales, Raul Dumapit, Danny Robles, and Ron Cal finished third with 2,402 pinfalls, followed by the quartets Allan Hernandez, Mel Regis, Leong, and Chris Hilario (2,395); Atoy Banting, Ben Aizon, Benjie Cruz, and Marie Candado (2,364); Lee Yong Woon, Anna David, Tito Corpuz, and Ibarreta (2,351); Diane Chong, Rusty Musca, Raymond Angeles, and Joe Sto. Domingco (2,346); and Rene Cariaso, Tom Bernardo, Maggie Chavez, and Ferdie Santos (2,331). A special prize ($75 gift certificate from Joeten and $25) were also given to No. 23 finishers Gigi Zapanta, Roger De Guzman, Ronald Batac, and Kaneshi.

Meanwhile, the organizing Saipan Bowling Association held a separate "rumble 7-8-0" format competition for Tan Holdings League bowlers with the team of Nat Angeles, Rey Maniacop, Santos, and Chavez prevailing in the field after collecting 2,667 pinfalls. The champion squad pocketed $332 worth of in-kind and cash prizes.

Also receiving prizes at the awards ceremony were runners-up Cariaso, Bernardo, Alfred Nieves, and Margaret Tenorio; third placers Jake Aslim, Jesse Elameto, Arlene Naguit and Ramon Aquino, and fourth finishers Efren Taburnal, Allan Perez, Villaflor, and Soll.

Special prizes were handed out to men's and women's high-series winner Ramon Aquino (791) and Cora Muna (778) and low series' Ramon Diaz (517) and Mae Alegre (416).

Tan Siu Lin Foundation manager Ed Arriola and Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan were present at the awards ceremony and handed the cash and in-kind prizes to the winning teams.

THE LAMBS

From Page 28

The Lambs went through Last Minute and Home Slice before being bumped into the elimination realm by Julie's Hair in the upper bracket semifinals, but they earned a second crack at their rivals after ousting third place Rastafari, 15-4, in the lower bracket semis duel and turned it on in the clutch.

Revived with the big win coming into the finals, The Lambs mustered a 15-11 victory to force a deciding tiebreaker match with Julie's Hair and went on to rule the day, 15-11, in the final standoff.

Miley's Beaches is comprised of Maile Aldrich, Steven Lee, Yubin Park, and Elnathan Wong and they ran the table over seven other teams.

Miley's Beaches streaked past the Mini-Dominators and the Young Guns before giving the boot to Glas in what turned out to be an upper bracket nail-biter, 17-15, that awarded the eventual champs a twice-to-beat advantage heading into the finals.

Glas knocked out third placer Awesomeness, 15-8, in the lower bracket semis, but succumbed to Miley's Beaches once again, 15-10, in the main event.

The winning team members each received Mizuno/USA Volleyball tote bags.

In addition, 18U's Angel Sound and Daviey Babauta and 13U's Keoki Pangelinan and Chloe Kosak were selected as the male and female most improved players of their respective age groups. The four each received a volleyball for their hard work.

After the event, NMI-VA founder Laurie Peterka thanked all of the players, parents, and volunteers and issued a special recognition to volunteer Amy McRoberts and acknowledged her as a hero to the group for her education and patience as one of the key organizers of their events.

Peterka said McRoberts sacrifices a lot of her time to ensure that the events run smoothly. She added that McRoberts is responsible for keeping track of a lot of the paper work in regards to record keeping in addition to a multitude of other responsibilities and little things that always need to be tended to. Peterka and CNMI National team coach Russ Quinn presented her with a FIVB Heroes T-shirt at the end of the awards ceremony.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	8	3	.727	—
Brooklyn	7	4	.636	1
Philadelphia	7	6	.538	2
Boston	7	6	.538	2
Toronto	3	10	.231	6

Southeast Division

Miami	10	3	.769	—
Atlanta	8	4	.667	1 1/2
Charlotte	7	5	.583	2 1/2
Orlando	5	7	.417	4 1/2
Washington	0	11	.000	9

Central Division

Milwaukee	6	5	.545	—
Chicago	6	6	.500	1/2
Indiana	6	8	.429	1 1/2
Detroit	3	10	.231	4
Cleveland	3	10	.231	4

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Memphis	9	2	.818	—
San Antonio	10	3	.769	—
Dallas	7	7	.500	3 1/2
Houston	6	7	.462	4
New Orleans	3	8	.273	6

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	10	4	.714	—
Denver	7	6	.538	2 1/2
Portland	6	6	.500	3
Utah	7	7	.500	3
Minnesota	5	7	.417	4

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	8	5	.615	—
Golden State	8	6	.571	1/2
L.A. Lakers	7	7	.500	1 1/2
Phoenix	6	7	.462	2
Sacramento	4	9	.308	4

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weekend Sports

Perfect finale

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Teams had fitting finales as four competitions were completed last week.

In the U20 division of the Rotary Club of Saipan's 21st Annual Youth Basketball League, the Sonics capped their perfect season with a 59-53 triumph over Marianas Resort/Proa in the finals at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Sonics of coach Omar Ajoste swept all nine games in the regular season and then defeated Hi-5 in the semifinals to earn a return trip to the finals and successfully defend the championship.

Also having a spotless record in the Rotary caging was the Rollers 1, which ruled the U6 division after edging Matson Consulting Proa in the finals, 43-39. The Rollers 1 went 7-0 in the regular season and advanced to the finals after ousting Hi-5 in the semis.

Duplicating the Sonics and Rollers 1's feats were the Marianas High School Lady Dolphins, who reigned supreme in the 2012-2013 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Girls Basketball League.

The Lady Dolphins went 6-0 in the elimination round and then routed Mt. Carmel School in the finals, 79-35, to post their second straight perfect season in the MISO girls caging.

Records were not kept in the U6, U8, U10, and U16 divisions of the 2012 NMIFA Youth Fall League, but still participating teams wrapped up the competition on a high note as they joined the season's festival.

Twenty-one teams played in multiple games at the Koberville Elementary School and Hopwood Junior High School pitches to conclude NMIFA's grassroots program for the fall season.

In other notable events last week, Cool Kids Only topped the Kanoa Resort 3-on-3 co-ed caging; Sean Smith won the 29th Annual Turkey Trot Fun Run; and junior and adults players clinched singles crown in the Tan Holdings Tennis Classic.

Cool Kids Only defeated Ball So Hard in the deciding Game 2 of the finals, 34-32, to rule the eight-team tournament, while Smith led more than 90 finishers in the race to the top of Mt. Tapochao, clocking in at 40:04 in the 4.2-mile run.

In the Tan Holdings Tennis Classic, Christian Miller, Mikayla Lopez, Rob Schorr, Ami Tsukagoshi Dylan Ackerman, Negahr Rastguiy, Rai Aditya and Jireh Warren won their respective juniors division contests, while Guam's Brian Tuncap, Don Castillo, Bong Gamab, Lopez, and Carol Lee prevailed in adults singles competitions.

Also worth mentioning were the debut of four Saipan athletes in the Rota Blue Triathlon and Shirley's Badminton Club's upset of the Berks Blazers in the Traders Insurance team tournament.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
The Sonics pose for a team photo after winning the championship of the Rotary caging U20 division last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Participant in last Thursday's 29th Annual Turkey Trot Fun Run head out to the course.

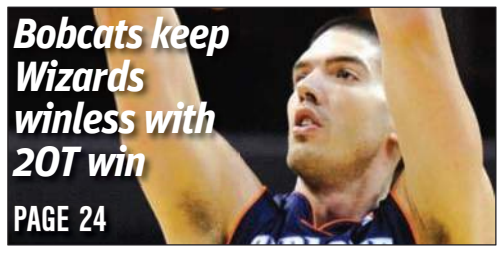
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan athletes pose for a group photo at the starting line of last week's Rota BlueTriathlon.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Paire goalie dives for the ball during their U8 game against Tan Holdings FC in the 2012 NMIFA Youth Falll Festival held last week at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Marianas High School's Rachel Abrams cashes in on a layup against Mt. Carmel School during their title game in the MISO caging last week at the MHS Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Spectators watch Golden Racquets' Vic Regis go for a smash during his and Jordan Pangelinan's game against the Berks Blazers' Wowie Abuel and Jeff Riman in the Traders Insurance badminton tournament last week at the TSL Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Rob Schorr returns to Alex Park during their U12 title game in Week 1 of the Tan Holdings Tennis Classic at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.



Saipan Tribune
Sports

Cruz, Pangelinan lead doubles winners

Pangelinan

Cruz

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Roy Pangelinan and Bobby Cruz won the all-Saipan battle for the men's open doubles crown in the 4th Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic.

The round-robin men's open doubles was played over the weekend with Cruz and Pangelinan first meeting Richard Asuncion and Ronnie Lacbayo last Saturday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts and winning the opening match in the division in straight sets, 6-1, 6-3.

Asuncion and Lacbayo went on to play back-to-back games last Saturday and redeemed their earlier loss after downing Rafael Jones and Russelle Buenaventura also at AMP, 6-4, 6-1.

Then yesterday, the final game for the division was played with

See CRUZ on Page 26

The Lambs, Miley's Beaches top final training clinic beach v-ball tourney

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

18U's The Lambs and 13U's Miley's Beaches came away the respective winners of the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association's third and final Training Clinic Beach Volleyball Tournament held beachside at Fiesta Resort & Spa last Saturday.

The Lambs members include Celine Camacho, Andrew Johnson, Christopher Lam, and Clay Mcullough-Stearns.

They rose through the lower bracket of the 12-team double-elimination competition and knocked off top-ranked Julie's Hair two times in a row to reign supreme in the end.

See THE LAMBS on Page 26

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
From left, The Lambs' Celine Camacho, Andrew Johnson, Clay McCullough-Stearns, and Christopher Lam pose for a team photo with their Mizuno/USA Volleyball tote bag prizes after winning NMIVA'S 3rd Training Clinic Beach Volleyball Tournament last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa beachfront.

Cassidy-Fanui repeats in spearfishing tourney

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Cassidy-Fanui's Mike Cassidy and Ray Flores, of Guam, along with their captain Mark Artero were declared the overall winners for the second consecutive year in this past Saturday's 6th Annual Marianas Apnea Spearfishing Club Tournament held at Smiling Cove Marina.

Meanwhile, The Thingz's San Roque duo of Ton Robert and Dave Camacho Jr., under captain Tony Scragg of Amazing Grace, dominated the Biggest Catch category.

Cassidy-Fanui bested 10 other competitors with a fruitful yield of 82.16 lbs and also claimed both runner-up and third place honors in the Biggest Catch category with their 8.54-lb and 6.20-lb single-weight entrants.

They received a pair of wooden latte stone trophies, $300

See CASSIDY-FANUI on Page 26

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Cassidy-Fanui members, from left, Mike Cassidy and Ray Flores, of Guam, pose with their first place prize package for winning the overall combined weight category of last Saturday's 6th Annual Marianas Apnea Spearfishing Club Tournament.

Champion teams recognized

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Winners in the two bowling tournaments held in celebration of Tan Holding's 40th anniversary were honored in a brief awards ceremony at the Saipan Bowling Center in San Jose last Wednesday.

The quartet of Elena Soll, Yho Villavicencio, Jerry Kaneshi, and Jerry Verdaguer took first place in the Tan Holdings 40th Anniversary Team Bowling Tournament (with handicap) held at the Capital Bowling Center on Oct. 25 and 26 and SBC on Oct. 27 and 29 and

The runner-ups pocketed $280 worth of cash and gift certificates. Cash and in-kind prizes were also handed on to

See CHAMPION on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Winners in the Tan Holdings 40th Anniversary Team Bowling Tournament pose with their prizes during the awards ceremony last Wednesday at the Saipan Bowling Center.